

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

EXPEDITIONS



TRAVEL CATALOG
2014–2015

VISIT...

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Dear Traveler,

Last year the National Geographic Society celebrated its 125th year by honoring exploration in every way possible. We recognized pioneers such as explorer Sylvia Earle, named an unprecedented number of Emerging Explorers, and sent National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala diving into Arctic waters, the Coral Sea, and the Eastern Pacific on three Pristine Seas expeditions. And some of our travelers set off on an extraordinary journey by private jet with 11 of our most renowned explorers. Our anniversary is behind us now, but we're not letting up in 2014.

This new year finds us burgeoning with incredible new travel opportunities—many inspired by National Geographic Explorers. The work of two recent Emerging Explorers, wildlife biologist Krithi Karanth and wildlife filmmaker Sandesh Kadur, led us to craft an expedition dedicated to India's magnificent creatures. We're thrilled that Krithi or Sandesh will accompany each departure, sharing their insights as we track Bengal tigers.

The story of yet another Emerging Explorer, humanitarian Lale Labuko, drew us to his native Ethiopia. On our new trip, we'll join Lale in the Omo Valley for a fascinating journey through timeless tribal lands. Aboard the new *National Geographic Orion*, we'll snorkel and dive in the Coral Sea and more of Enric Sala's designated Pristine Seas.

We're introducing a new line of family trips that will have travelers of all ages hiking beneath karst pinnacles in China and doing craft projects with pen pals in Costa Rica. See page 114 to learn more.

As my time as CEO of this extraordinary organization comes to an end, it is deeply gratifying to see travelers on our expeditions venturing out to some of the farthest-flung and most magical places on the planet, continuing the legacy of our founders. I wish you happy exploring!

Turn to the calendar on page 138 for a full listing of our trips. To reserve your space call 1-888-966-8687 or visit our website: nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.



Sincerely,
John Fahey

John Fahey
Chairman
National Geographic Society



Your participation in a National Geographic Expedition provides support to National Geographic's mission of increasing global understanding through exploration, geography education, and research.



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Discover the National Geographic difference.

National Geographic first reported on Ethiopia back in 1925, when the country was called Abyssinia and future emperor Haile Selassie was still a soft-spoken regent known as Ras Tafari. Our reporter traveled by mule caravan and celebrated Christmas among thousands of pilgrims at the subterranean churches of Lalibela. Since then, our scientists and writers have helped tell many more stories about this intriguing place.

A treasure chest of fossils has been uncovered here with National Geographic's support by the likes of the Leakey family and Donald Johanson, who excavated 3.2-million-year-old Lucy in 1974. Today, National Geographic Emerging Explorer Zeresenay Alemseged and other Society-funded paleontologists continue to make groundbreaking finds.

Ethiopia's present-day human story is equally fascinating. In the Omo Valley, tribespeople with lip plates and loincloths carry on their ancient traditions in the face of the encroaching modern world. We explored these societies in a March 2010 *National Geographic* magazine article "Africa's Last Frontier," and one of our newest Emerging Explorers, humanitarian and Omo Valley native Lale Labuko, has brought us valuable insights into the traditions of his people.

Lale's experiences inspired us as we crafted our new trip to Ethiopia, which combines the country's riveting tribal life, its religious history, and its vital contributions to paleontology. What's more, Lale or one of his colleagues will join us for our time in the Omo Valley, sharing an insiders' perspective and ensuring that our encounters with the valley's tribes are genuine and meaningful. And in Addis Ababa, we'll meet with a leading paleontologist for a firsthand account of some of the most game-changing fossil finds in history. Ethiopia is a fascinating place to explore, but seeing it through the eyes of our experts makes all the difference.

Clockwise from top left: Children of the Suri people in Ethiopia's Omo Valley use clay and crushed minerals to paint their skin; a line of *moai* face the sea on Easter Island; a keel-billed toucan in Costa Rica; a historic church in the colonial heart of Bogotá, Colombia; India's endangered Bengal tiger.



Travel that's tailored to your interests

Our trips span the gamut: whether you're a budding photographer, a classic-train buff, an avid birder, or a parent looking for a great family adventure, you'll find an array of opportunities that fit your passions and interests.

The beauty of happenstance

Some of the best moments in travel occur when you least expect them. So that you can savor these instants and enjoy a place in a way that's meaningful to you, we offer options and build free time into our itineraries wherever we can.

Explore the world comfortably

Our accommodations are selected for their excellent quality, location, and character. We take care of the logistics and the details so that you can immerse yourself in the places you are exploring.

Travel in good company

Lasting friendships often begin on a National Geographic Expedition. Your traveling companions are Society members like you: active, engaged, and curious about the world.

An expert touch

Our experts' fingerprints are all over our expeditions. We consult them when crafting our itineraries; we visit them in the field; and—best of all—they travel with us. The result: you experience a place through the eyes of someone who knows it intimately.

Exceptional resources at your fingertips

To help you prepare for your trip, we'll send you National Geographic books, articles, or maps about your destination. You'll also receive a 20 percent discount on any purchase from our gift catalog or online store—ngtravelshop.com—and a free one-year subscription to a National Geographic magazine of your choice.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
EXPEDITIONS



**Lifelong
Explorer**

Our Loyalty Program

Once you've traveled on three National Geographic Expeditions, you'll qualify for enrollment in our Lifelong Explorer program. And now, any National Geographic Adventure trip you take will also count toward your eligibility in the program. Lifelong Explorers are entitled to a host of benefits:

- Savings on all future National Geographic Expeditions and National Geographic Adventures
- Advance notice of new trips
- Invitations to join special trips not available to the public
- Special offers on upcoming trips
- Invitations to special National Geographic events and lectures around the country
- Dedicated email newsletters exclusively for Lifelong Explorers

To learn more about the Lifelong Explorer program, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/le.

“National Geographic implies quality, knowledge, and experience...all the adjectives that would comfort a person when deciding to take such an adventure as going to Antarctica. **If National Geographic went to the moon, we would happily book a trip!**”

—Rob L., traveler



Authentic experiences around the world

National Geographic's explorers have never taken travel lightly.

As they trekked into the unknown wilds from Papua New Guinea to Patagonia, they sought experiences that would open their eyes and minds, discoveries of unsung species and geographies, and connections with cultures that would help explain our planet. This spirit inspires our trips as well. We seek new perspectives on legendary sites, and meaningful encounters with people we meet along the way. We craft our programs to draw out the authenticity of each destination and celebrate what makes it unique.

It's in the way we travel. Our small-ship voyages, for instance, are expeditionary by nature, guided by an instinct for in-depth—and often spontaneous—exploration. This flexibility brings us far off the beaten path to encounter the remote and the rare, whether we're heading to the unspoiled coral atolls of the South Pacific aboard the new *National Geographic Orion* or gliding on Amazon waterways on the intimate and elegant *Delfin II*. We board a classic DC-3 to soar over southern Africa's wildlife-rich landscapes, and ply Holland's waterways in a traditional barge at the height of spring.





It's in the people we meet. In Japan, we get acquainted with geishas, monks, and traditional farmers, delving into very different sides of Japanese society to learn about timeless traditions. As we explore prehistoric cave art from France to Spain on our Human Origins expedition, we'll meet with leading archaeologists to hear their unique perspectives. And on our new family trips, kids spend time with pen pals they've previously corresponded with, playing games and sharing cultures in Beijing's *hutongs* or Cappadocia, Turkey.

It's in the places we stay: From stunning stone cottages within India's Panna National Park to a 17th-century convent that inspired Gabriel García Márquez in the seaside town of Cartagena, Colombia (pictured above, right), the accommodations we choose are an integral part of our experience. On a new family trip to Tanzania, for example, our private tented eco-camp in the eastern Serengeti gives us direct access to wildlife while offering comfort and a sense of harmony with the surrounding landscape.

It's in the traditions we encounter. Take part in a lamp-lighting ceremony with monks in Myanmar, or gather your kids to listen to an Icelandic storyteller recount age-old legends of elves and trolls. In Ethiopia or Bhutan, get

immersed in the colors and pageantry of a local festival. Experiences such as these are what make travel meaningful, enriching, and unforgettable.

"I had wanted to go on this [Tanzania] trip for a long time, and it was even better than I imagined. **I can't wait to travel with National Geographic again!**"

—Laura P., traveler



The National Geographic Mission

When you travel with us, you make a difference.

Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the National Geographic Society's core mission programs. By traveling with us, you are helping support our grantees and explorers in their efforts to preserve species and habitats, protect cultures, and advance understanding of our incredible planet.

As you thumb through this catalog, look for the National Geographic seal to learn more about the programs that your participation helps fund.

National Geographic Expeditions is committed to sustaining the character and integrity of each place we visit—its environment, culture, and heritage, and the well-being of its residents. In providing authentic travel experiences, we strive to support local economies in our choice of services. At the same time, we believe that the powerful positive effects of sustainable travel go beyond the long-term economic benefits, inspiring passionate stewards committed to protecting the places we visit.



Our Experts:

Your inspiring travel companions

National Geographic researchers, explorers, writers, and photographers have brought the world to our members for more than a hundred years. Now, they bring you to the planet's most intriguing places to share their passion and their insider perspectives. We'd like to introduce you to a few of them.



Kristin Romey directs field operations for a National Geographic-sponsored archaeological project in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, described as the Atlantis of the Central Asian Silk Road. Kristin speaks fluent Russian, earned a graduate degree in nautical archaeology from Texas A&M University, and is a Fellow of the Explorers Club.

She was one of the first Westerners to survey and excavate in the former Soviet regions of the Black Sea. Her award-winning work as executive editor of *Archaeology* magazine covered topics ranging from the legend of the Golden Fleece in the Republic of Georgia to the legacy of Alexander the Great in present-day Uzbekistan. Kristin will accompany the September 2014 departure of *Along the Silk Road: A Journey by Classic Train*.



When **Peter Hillary** first climbed Mount Everest in 1990, he and his father, Sir Edmund Hillary—who made the first ascent of Mount Everest in 1953—became the first father and son to reach the summit. He reached the summit again in 2002 on a National Geographic-sponsored ascent later featured

in the film *Surviving Everest*. Peter has completed more than 40 mountaineering expeditions and is deeply involved in assistance programs for the people of the Mount Everest region in Nepal. Peter will accompany the September 21 and October 10, 2014 departures of our Tibet and Nepal: Journey to the Highest Himalaya expedition.



Brian Skerry is a photojournalist and marine biologist who specializes in underwater and marine-related subjects and stories. Since 1998 Skerry has been a contributing photographer for *National Geographic* magazine, covering a wide range of assignments. While on assignment, he has lived on the bottom of the sea, spent

months aboard fishing boats, and traveled in everything from snowmobiles to canoes to helicopters to get the picture. An award-winning photographer, Brian continues to pursue stories that will increase awareness about the sea. He will join both September 2014 departures of our Wild Encounters from Borneo to Bali voyage aboard the new *National Geographic Orion*.



Travel writer and photographer **Christopher P. Baker** has produced guidebooks to Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Panama in the *National Geographic Traveler* series. He has also written and photographed for more than 200 publications, including *National Geographic Traveler* and *Newsweek*. Named the

2008 Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year, Christopher will lead two January 2015 expeditions to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, and several departures of our Cuba expeditions. He also looks forward to sharing his knowledge of Colombia with our travelers on the November and December 2014 and February 2015 departures of our new expedition Discovering Colombia.



The host of Nat Geo WILD's *Expedition Wild* and *America the Wild*, naturalist **Casey Anderson** was nicknamed the "animal magnet" while growing up in Montana. In 2002, Casey rescued an abandoned grizzly bear cub and dedicated his life to raising Brutus to be an ambassador for his wild grizzly cousins. Casey built Brutus a sanctuary which became the Montana Grizzly Encounter, a bear rescue and education facility. Together, they have been featured in the National Geographic Channel's *Expedition Grizzly* and in numerous educational videos, films, television shows, and commercials. A passionate advocate for wildlife as well as an entertaining presenter, Casey will share insights from his many adventures including those in Alaska, where he studied the grizzly population of Kodiak Island. Casey will join our June 21, 2014 Alaska's Inside Passage voyage as well as the June 28, 2014 Alaska Family Voyage.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EMERGING EXPLORER **KRITHI KARANTH** GREW UP AMONG TIGERS IN INDIA. Read on to learn about her current projects and what she hopes to share with travelers on our new India Wildlife Safari expedition.

How did you become interested enough in wildlife to devote your career to it?

I had a pretty unusual childhood, growing up in India with my dad, who's a well-known tiger biologist. From the age of one, I traveled with him extensively to several parks. We would sit for hours on end with a pair of binoculars looking out for animals. When you're a little kid, that's a long time to sit and watch animals! For years, I didn't really appreciate it. It's only when I came to the U.S. to study that I completely fell in love with the idea of doing research. I felt very much at home with something that I'd spent my whole life growing up with, and I decided that I wanted to be a conservation biologist.

What's the focus of your current work?

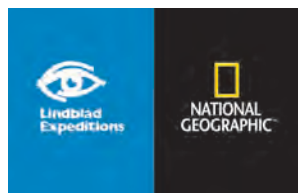
I work on a range of projects. The one that National Geographic has funded has been looking at human-wildlife conflicts, livestock predation, crop loss, and property loss that people suffer in India. I also look at the impacts of wildlife tourism on our parks—what it means for the parks themselves, how involved the local communities are in tourism, who

benefits from the incredible explosion in tourism that's taking place in India right now. I also have projects outside parks. Unfortunately, India just has four percent of its land protected. So clearly, there's a lot of wildlife outside the parks.

What are a few of the things that people who join you on the new India Wildlife Safari are likely to see?

I'm definitely hoping for tigers and leopards, but there's a spectacular array of other species as well: rhinos, elephants, a lot of interesting bird species. Another interesting thing about this trip is that Kaziranga National Park is very different from Panna and Bandhavgarh in terms of the forests that we're going to see. They also represent different stories if you look at the Indian conservation context. Panna failed in some sense because tigers went locally extinct and had to be reintroduced, whereas Kaziranga has worked on the policy of armed guards protecting rhinos, which is why they've managed to save the species. They represent very different conservation philosophies and how perhaps you need to try different things in different places to make sure the wildlife are still there.

READ MORE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH KRITHI ON OUR WEBSITE. SEE PAGE 66 FOR OUR NEW INDIA WILDLIFE SAFARI, AND PAGE 102 FOR OUR WILDLIFE OF THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET JOURNEY THAT SHE WILL ALSO JOIN.



Take to the seas with National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions aboard the National

From the Northwest Passage to the South Pacific, the National Geographic fleet can typically be found in some of the planet's most remote, untouched, and mind-bogglingly beautiful places. For the past ten years, National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions have worked together to craft extraordinary small-ship expeditions, tapping our vast resources to bring you to fascinating parts of the world and connect you to the people who know them best—whether it's whale researchers in Alaska or art historians in Holland and Belgium.

Our newest ship, the *National Geographic Orion*, sets off on its inaugural voyage in the South Pacific this spring. Guests on board our expedition from Bali to Borneo will observe orangutans in Borneo's jungles and meet with

National Geographic grantee Biruté Galdikas—a protégé of Louis Leakey and one of the world's leading orangutan experts—at her research camp. As we voyage from Fiji to Tahiti and then from Tahiti to Easter Island, we'll snorkel and dive in the Southern Line Islands and the Pitcairns, two regions that have been designated as some of the last unspoiled ocean environments by the Pristine Seas Project established by marine ecologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala.

Whether you're swimming with sea lions and marine iguanas in the Galápagos or gliding past penguin-dotted icebergs in Antarctica, exploration is easy, fun, and at your fingertips on our small ships. Zodiacs, kayaks, cutting-edge imaging technology, and snorkeling gear bring you up close to wildlife





Geographic fleet.

and wild places, and our team of naturalists, historians, and cultural experts on board share their passion and their insights everywhere we go. Through our partnership, we've established the Lindblad Expeditions–National Geographic fund, which supports a wide range of initiatives, from combating invasive species on South Georgia to conservation efforts in Baja California.

“[This is] the most amazing place I’ve ever seen...the most pristine place we have dived so far. We have found it. This is it.”

–National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala, on diving in the Southern Line Islands



Field Notes: Journey to Antarctica

“This was a breathtaking day. Antarctica doesn’t get any better. Our expedition leader awoke us with news of four emperor penguins on the ice alongside the ship. We scurried from our cabins with cameras in hand to photograph these wayward juveniles—giants compared to the gentoo penguins nearby. As the sun climbed, a glorious light spilled onto distant icy mountains under a brilliant blue sky. We slam-dunked breakfast, donned our lifejackets, and walked on the frozen waters of Charlotte Bay. It was pure magic. Not a breath of wind, and as the morning warmed we found ourselves over-dressed.

“After a well-deserved hot lunch, we enjoyed a round of Zodiac cruising in what can only be described as ‘perfect’ conditions: crystal-clear, calm waters; blue icebergs; bright sunshine; snow-covered peaks; and mirror reflections. If life is indeed measured by the moments that take our breath away, then we aboard *National Geographic Explorer* are living life to the fullest. Sleep well, breathless shipmates.”

—Melanie Heacox, naturalist

Please note: Though we see thousands of penguins on our Journey to Antarctica voyages, emperor penguins are a rare sighting except on the earliest voyages of the season. This one was spotted in November 2012.

Expeditions tailored to your interests



Learn photography from the best in the field.

When you think of National Geographic, the odds are that one of the first things to come to mind is an unforgettable photograph you've seen in the pages of our magazines.

National Geographic's photographers have long told stories through their images that help connect us to people and places all around the globe. Our photographers are passionate and patient, instinctive and creative, and they're thrilled to share their insights and skills with those of us who love photography.

Now, there are more ways than ever to learn firsthand from our top photographers. Our photography workshops are in-depth, hands-on programs that combine classroom time with daily photo assignments in the field and take place over a long weekend or a week. On a

photography expedition, you'll explore a compelling place such as India or the Galápagos with your camera in hand, learning techniques as you shoot alongside the pros. We also offer *National Geographic Traveler* photography seminars—full-day or half-day courses in cities all over the U.S. (learn more at nationalgeographic.com/ngtseminars). Each program is designed for amateur photographers and is led by a National Geographic photographer.

A National Geographic photographer also accompanies every voyage on the *National Geographic Explorer* and the *National Geographic Orion*; and each ship in our fleet is staffed with a certified photo instructor. Turn to pages 106–113 to see a full listing of our photography trips and workshops.



Adventure Awaits!

For those who seek to travel by hiking trail or horseback, explore in a kayak or even a dogsled, National Geographic Adventures offers unique, active itineraries. Trek across mountain ranges to archaeological wonders, kayak deep into rain forests, cross an entire country on foot, or traverse legendary landscapes by horse or camel. The adventure is a cultural one too: you learn ancient tracking skills from San Bushmen in Namibia or visit with Sherpas in their Himalayan homes. It's also a personal adventure: a physical challenge that you can tailor to your interests and abilities. Your trip leaders are active outdoor enthusiasts with an in-depth knowledge of the places you're exploring, and your group will never be more than 16 travelers. See page 128 for more information on our National Geographic Adventures and photo adventures.

Introducing Our Newest Family Adventures.

With more than 125 years of exploring behind us, we at National Geographic believe that family travel can be life changing. Kids are natural explorers, and getting them out into the world to experience its wonders firsthand can transform a curious youth into a budding global citizen.

We've crafted our family expeditions to inspire and enrich travelers of any age, drawing on our global resources to create experiences in incredible places that are authentic, immersive, and fun. We discover the secrets of America's national parks with a field geologist or a wildlife biologist, and join a team of experts on family voyages on National Geographic fleet.

On all of our trips, our dynamic staff organizes engaging activities for kids and adults alike. We meet with all kinds of fascinating people on the road—from whale researchers in Alaska to Alpine mountaineers, and try out new things like ancient martial arts or traditional Andean weaving. On our newest family trips, kids correspond with pen pals in our destination and then meet up with them to get a taste of what growing up in Iceland or China might be like. And before your trip, we'll send you engaging materials about your destination, from our magazines or DVDs to maps or journals.

Imagine your family snorkeling with penguins in the Galápagos, rafting through the rain forests of Costa Rica; or sitting around the campfire in a private wildlife refuge in Tanzania, listening to the nighttime sounds of the Serengeti. Experiences like these make for great family memories and spark a passion for exploration and discovery...in kids, but also in their parents and grandparents.

Learn about our new series of family adventures on page 114, and see pages 115-125 for all of our family expeditions.



CUBA: DISCOVERING ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE



EXPERIENCE CUBAN CULTURE THE MOST AUTHENTIC WAY POSSIBLE—through its people. On this unique and inspiring program, get acquainted with Cubans in diverse settings, from Old Havana to colonial Cienfuegos. Engage the local people directly in discussions about their lives and work, culture and traditions. Meet with Cuban historians, teachers, students, artists, naturalists, and others, and experience this fast-changing island nation through their eyes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Old Havana and Trinidad with Cuban experts.
- Spend time with local artists and musicians in the colonial city of Cienfuegos.
- Witness Cuba's shifting cultural and economic landscape on visits to schools, art studios, and privately owned restaurants.
- Meet photographer Julio Muñoz, whose family appeared in *National Geographic*.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer and photographer **Christopher P. Baker**, author of *National Geographic Traveler: Cuba*, is one of the world's leading authorities on Cuban travel and culture. His more

than 20 books include the award-winning *Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro's Cuba*. He has also written for numerous publications, from *National Geographic Traveler* to *Newsweek*, and has given talks about Cuba at National Geographic headquarters, the National Press Club, and the World Affairs Council. Christopher will share his unique insights into Cuban culture, history, and politics.

CHRISTOPHER WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS DEPARTURE DATES AND EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./HAVANA, CUBA

Depart from Miami on a charter flight. Upon arrival in Havana, enjoy lunch and visit the Plaza de la Revolución before transferring to our hotel. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner tonight. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (L, D)

DAY 2 HAVANA

Learn about the restoration and changing landscape of Havana from a local preservation expert. Then set out to explore Old Havana, stopping in at local businesses and meeting the workers. After lunch, explore a community project at Muraleando, where local and international artists have been changing a downtrodden neighborhood into a living work of art. Tonight, attend a special musical performance after dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 HAVANA

Engage in a specially-arranged question-and-answer session with Cuban professionals, discussing education, economics, the role of govern-



Young Cubans play soccer against the pastel backdrop of Trinidad's Iglesia y Convento.

ment, and other topics of interest. Later, meet the instructors and students of La Colmenita, an after-school program that uses song and dance performance as a social development tool. (B, L, D)

Above: Adding a splash of color and sound to an evening in Old Havana, a trumpet player practices in the Plaza de la Catedral.



Behind one of the many classic cars found in Havana, a Cuban man surveys the street.



TRAVEL TO CUBA WITH A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

2014: Apr. 27–May 5 • May 25–Jun. 12

Jun. 8–16 • Nov. 2–10



Certain departures will be led by some of our top photographers. Massimo Bassano (top) will lead the November 2 departure and Kike Calvo (bottom) will lead the April 27, May 25, and June 8 departures. Visit our website to see their bios and additional dates that will be led by a National Geographic photographer.



DAY 4 CIENFUEGOS

Leave Havana and head to Cienfuegos, a port city with architecture that reflects its French colonial roots. Enjoy an orientation tour of the city and meet local residents in Parque Martí. See the statue commemorating José Martí, a renowned author and a leader in Cuba's quest for independence from Spain. Engage local *cuentapropistas* (self-employed), who are part of an expanding private sector, on Cienfuegos' main commercial street. Then visit Benny Moré Art School to meet with teachers and students of music, dance, and art. HOTEL JAGUA (B, L, D)

DAY 5 TRINIDAD

Travel to Trinidad, where we explore Cuba's best-preserved colonial city with a restoration expert and interact with local community members, including a Santería priest. Then meet Julio Muñoz, a local photographer and "horse whisperer" whose wife and niece appeared in an October 1999 *National Geographic* magazine article, and

learn about his *casa particular* (guest house). Visit Julio's colonial-era house and stables, the base for his program promoting equine care. (B, L)

DAY 6 CIENFUEGOS

Near Cienfuegos, visit Cuba's oldest botanical garden with a botany expert. Stop in a former sugar mill town and interact with the town's present day inhabitants. Later, enjoy a choral performance and discussion with a world renowned a cappella group, the Choir of Cienfuegos. After dinner, there will be an opportunity to meet with local residents in Cienfuegos. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 BAY OF PIGS/HAVANA

Today, head to the historic Bay of Pigs. Set foot on the famous Playa Girón, one of the two landing sites for the 1961 U.S.-backed invasion. Visit Australia, a former sugar mill town and Fidel Castro's headquarters during the Bay of Pigs invasion. Here, meet with former mill workers and ride an old steam train through the sugarcane fields. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B, L)

DAY 8 HAVANA/JAIMANITAS

This morning, travel to the charming fishing village of Jaimanitas to visit the workshop and home of ceramic artist José Fuster, called the "Picasso of Cuba." Then attend a question-and-answer session with American author and Havana resident, Marc Frank. Meet with Marc and a Cuban journalist to discuss their perspectives on Cuba's past, present, and future. Celebrate our Cuban experience together at a farewell dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 HAVANA/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Miami. (B)

ADDITIONAL ITINERARY: new EASTERN CUBA: CROSSROADS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

11 Days • 2014: Mar. 18–28 • Apr. 1–11
Apr. 8–18

Soak up the captivating culture of eastern Cuba on a journey that focuses on people and culture. Visit Havana, Santiago de Cuba, and Baracoa, engaging with folk dancers and musicians, artists, farmers, and fishermen along the way. Visit our website for details.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: From March through June and in November, expeditions depart every week on Saturday or Sunday. See the calendar on page 138 for specific departure dates.

Expedition Cost:

\$5,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$700. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip charter airfare between Miami and Havana begins at \$525 per person (subject to change).

Please Note: This trip is permitted by a special People-to-People license from the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. This itinerary was designed to provide an in-depth cultural experience with numerous opportunities for meaningful interaction with Cubans. Travel restrictions in Cuba, such as limits on how much one may spend and what may be purchased, will be provided in your pre-departure materials. **While we do our best to adhere to the itinerary listed here, traveling in Cuba requires flexibility, and changes to hotels and activities may occur.**

BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

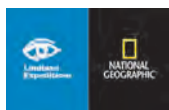


DISCOVER THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ on an extraordinary expedition aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. In the company of marine biologists, experience up-close encounters with gray whales in the inlets of Bahía Magdalena. See a variety of other wildlife in the Sea of Cortez, from humpback whales to bottlenose dolphins. Follow naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti, and snorkel among playful sea lions.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness gray whale mothers and their young in their birthing grounds as we explore Bahía Magdalena by expedition landing craft.
- Go snorkeling amid sea lions, brilliant blue damselfish, and schools of king angelfish.
- Kayak through thick mangroves on the lookout for a variety of bird species, including magnificent frigatebirds.
- Traverse wind-sculpted sand dunes and an otherworldly forest of gigantic cacti.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A team of experts—from naturalists to undersea specialists—accompanies each expedition. On the January 24 and 31, 2015 departures, we will be joined by National Geographic

photographer and marine biologist **Flip Nicklin**. Regarded as one of the world's leading photographers of whales, Flip's work has been featured in numerous National Geographic magazines and television specials. Between his frequent visits to the Sea of Cortez, Flip migrates with the humpbacks, spending summers in the Pacific Northwest and the Gulf of Alaska, and winters off Maui in Hawaii. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge about whales and photography with travelers in the Sea of Cortez. THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LA PAZ, MEXICO

Arrive in La Paz and drive along the beautiful Malecón to meet our ship, the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

DAY 2 EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

We'll follow the currents and the wildlife today, exploring pristine, uninhabited islands such as Isla San Jose or Isla Santa Catalina, and snorkeling among colorful parrotfish and flashing schools of surgeonfish. Search for whales among the islands of the southern Sea of Cortez, one of the best areas for spotting blue whales and bottlenose dolphins. Walk among huge cacti and observe the great diversity of birdlife. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

At Los Islotes, snorkel and swim among curious sea lions. With its rugged cliffs and coves carved deeply into the coastline, Espíritu Santo is one of



Kayakers paddle in crystal-clear waters.

Above: A gray whale spy-hops just feet from passengers on a well positioned expedition landing craft.

Watch short videos about this expedition at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



Bristling cacti soak up the sun on Isla Santa Catalina.

ALTERNATE ITINERARY: WHALES AND WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

8 Days • 2014: Apr. 12–19 • Apr. 14–21

On a special springtime voyage, visit the Sea of Cortez during the best time to see large pods of dolphins and various species of whales—blue, sperm, pilot, fin, humpback and Bryde's—all in the same week. See our website for details.

the most beautiful islands in the Sea of Cortez. This afternoon, examine the island's volcanic landscapes on a kayak excursion. Go beachcombing or take a hike along the rocky coast, keeping your eye out for brown pelicans, gulls, wandering tattlers, great blue herons, and boobies. Tonight, gather for a barbecue around a campfire on the beach and take in a splendid display of stars. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 GORDA BANKS AND LOS CABOS

The morning is spent at the Gorda Banks sea-mount, a gathering place for whales—especially humpbacks—as well as dolphins and other sea life. Learn about whale behavior with our on-board marine biologist as you watch these giant creatures breach and tail-lob. Then cruise past Friars

Rocks at Land's End and dock at Los Cabos. If you choose, take an excursion to the historic town of San Jose del Cabo. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5, 6, AND 7 BAHÍA MAGDALENA

Bahía Magdalena—a vast wilderness of sand dunes, mangrove channels, and protected waters—is one of the main breeding and calving areas for California gray whales. Every year, gray whales migrate here from the Arctic waters of Alaska to breed and raise their calves. It is believed to be the longest migration known for any mammal and is one of nature's greatest spectacles. In this vast aquatic nursery, observe these enormous yet gentle animals from the ship and at water level from our expedition landing crafts. Venture into dense mangroves by kayak and watch for magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, and great blue herons on the mudflats. (B, L, D DAILY)



The National Geographic Sea Bird



DAY 8 SAN CARLOS/LA PAZ/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in San Carlos and drive across the peninsula to La Paz for your return flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jan. 17–24 • Jan. 24–31* • Jan. 31–Feb. 7
Feb. 7–14* • Feb. 14–21 • Feb. 21–28*
Feb. 28–Mar. 7 • Mar. 7–14* • Mar. 14–21

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$5,990
Located on Main Deck	
Category 2	\$6,890
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	
Category 3	\$7,730
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	

See National Geographic Sea Bird description and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,000 in Category 1 and \$3,450 in Category 2. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Los Angeles and La Paz is \$650 (subject to change).

COSTA RICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NATURAL WONDERS ALONG THE PACIFIC COASTS OF COSTA RICA AND PANAMA

on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Sea Lion*. Venture into the rain forests of Manuel Antonio and Corcovado National Parks; search for monkeys, frogs, sloths, and brightly colored birds; and ride horseback on a pristine beach. Cap off your voyage with a crossing of the legendary Panama Canal.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover hidden pools and waterfalls deep within the jungles of the Osa Peninsula.
- Kayak around the tiny islands of the Gulf of Panama, and snorkel off Isla de Coiba.
- Enjoy special access to the protected forests of Barro Colorado Island.
- Examine the fascinating lock system that made the Panama Canal one of the greatest engineering achievements of its era.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A diverse team of experts—from naturalists to geologists—accompanies these expeditions. On the January 3 and 10, 2015 departures we will also

be joined by writer and photographer **Christopher P. Baker**. The Lowell Thomas Award 2008 Travel Journalist of the Year, Christopher is one of the world's foremost authorities on Costa Rica and Cuba. He has authored guidebooks to Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Panama in the *National Geographic Traveler* series and is the author of the award-winning *Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro's Cuba*. He has written for more than 200 publications and has been featured on the National Geographic Channel, NPR, and dozens of other radio and TV outlets.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA/ HERRADURA

Upon arrival in San José, transfer to Herradura and embark the *National Geographic Sea Lion*. (D)

DAY 2 MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK

Spend the morning in Manuel Antonio National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site where thick forests fringe spectacular beaches. Venture into this lush wilderness, watching for three-toed sloths lazing among the branches, as well as monkeys and vividly colored birds. This afternoon, trace the park's beautiful coastline south and stop to take a refreshing swim or a hike. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 OSA PENINSULA

Anchor off the Osa Peninsula, unreachable by road, to see some of the most unspoiled lowland rain forest on the Pacific coast. In the environs of Corcovado National Park, swim in waterfall pools, ride horses on the beach, or trek through the rain forest for a chance to see four species of



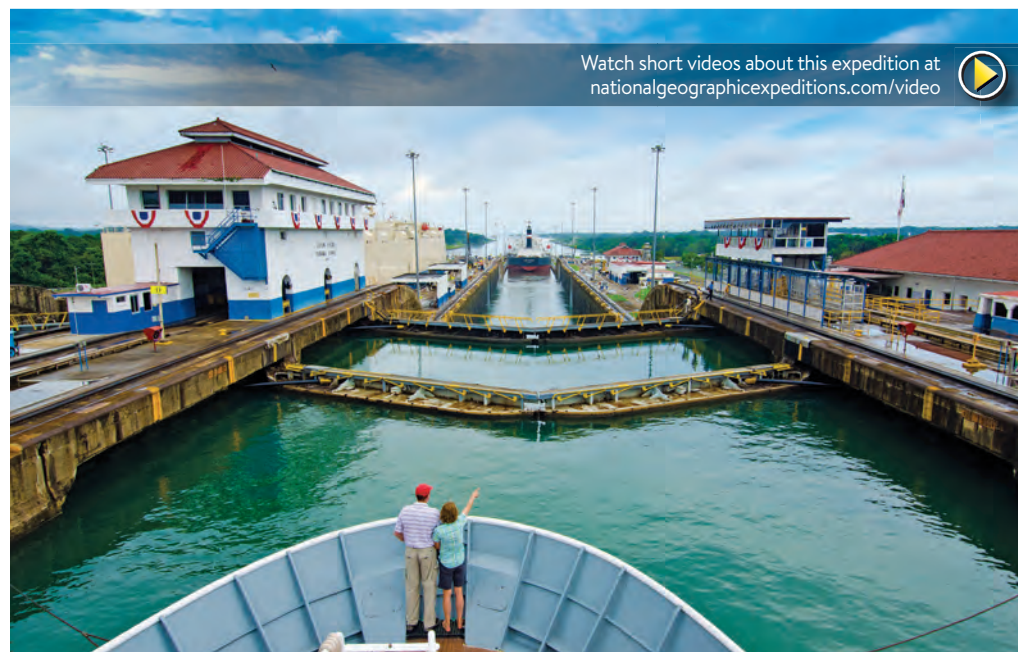
A keel-billed toucan's bill can reach up to a third of the bird's total length.

monkeys—howler, spider, capuchin, and squirrel. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 GOLFO DULCE

Enter the mangrove-fringed Golfo Dulce, a protected gulf along the southwestern edge of Costa Rica. Visit Casa Orquídeas, a tropical paradise of ornamental palms, bromeliads, heliconias, orchids, and flowering gingers difficult to access and only reachable by boat. Keep your eye out for

Above: A baby white-throated capuchin monkey clings to its mother.



Watch short videos about this expedition at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video

Travelers enjoy a prime vantage point on the *Sea Lion's* prow as the ship makes its way through the historic Panama Canal.

tanagers, parrots, and toucans. Later, explore the placid bay, ideal for kayaking, expedition landing craft rides, and swimming. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 COIBA NATIONAL PARK, PANAMA

We make our first stop in Panama this morning at the remote Isla de Coiba, one of the many islands of Coiba National Park, a World Heritage site. Once a penal colony, the island has long been protected and accessible by special permit only. Among its many endemic species are the Coiba Island agouti and the mantled howler monkey, as well as four varieties of sea turtle. Discover rich marine life while snorkeling, kayak along the coast, take a guided hike in the forest, or just relax on the beach. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 GULF OF PANAMA ISLETS/PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT

Our nimble expedition landing craft and kayaks allow us to navigate the tiny islets of the Gulf



The National Geographic *Sea Lion*

of Panama today, stopping to explore hidden coves and beaches. Here, we might spot magnificent frigate birds, brown pelicans, neotropical cormorants, and brown boobies. Reboard the ship this afternoon and head to the Panama Canal. Stretching more than 50 miles, the canal was a colossal engineering feat completed in 1914 and is still traversed by some 14,000 ships every year. As cargo ships tend to pass through the canal during the day, we'll most likely begin our crossing at night, when the canal is dramatically lit. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 GATÚN LAKE/PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT

Board an expedition landing craft this morning to visit Barro Colorado Nature Monument in Gatún Lake by special arrangement. Scientists have worked at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on Barro Colorado Island since 1946, researching the 120 mammals and diverse tree species that can be found here. It is also the site of a pioneering project supported by National Geographic that tracks tagged animals using automated radio signals and wireless technology. Join local experts for a walk through the forests that so challenged the canal builders. This evening, continue through the complex lock system of the canal. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 COLÓN/PANAMA CITY/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in Colón and transfer to the airport in Panama City for your flight home. (B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014/2015: From December 2014 through March 2015, expeditions depart every Saturday. See calendar on page 138 for specific departure dates. Certain departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$5,990
Located on Main Deck	
Category 2	\$6,790
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	
Category 3	\$7,690
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	

See *National Geographic Sea Lion* description and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,000 in Category 1 and \$3,400 in Category 2. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Miami to San José and return from Panama City is \$550 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a two-day pre- or post-trip extension to Panama City to see the brand new Museum of Biodiversity, designed by Frank Gehry; a three-day pre-trip extension to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve; or a seven-day post-trip extension to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Sarapiquí River, and Arenal Volcano. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2014 and receive a complimentary new Panama City extension on the December 13, 2014 and January through March 2015 departures.

Visit our website for information on our **Costa Rica and the Panama Canal Photography Expedition**.

ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE

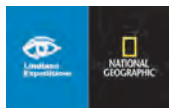


EXPERIENCE THE REMARKABLE BEAUTY OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird* or *National Geographic Sea Lion* into a land of mist-shrouded fjords, tidewater glaciers, and islands teeming with wildlife. Search for orcas and humpback whales, kayak amid glacial ice, spend a full day in Glacier Bay National Park, and learn about Alaska's rich Native American heritage.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kayak into protected coves and look for sea otters, seabirds, and Steller sea lions.**
- **Hike along lush forest trails to cascading waterfalls, and take an expedition landing craft into sheltered coves to look for brown bears.**
- **Meet researchers from the Alaska Whale Foundation, and get a firsthand perspective on Alaska's indigenous people from a Tlingit cultural interpreter.**
- **Discover seldom-seen, vibrant marine life, revealed by our undersea specialist.**

EXPEDITION TEAM



A diverse team of experts — from naturalists to undersea specialists—joins each voyage. On the June 21, 2014 departure, we will also be joined by naturalist

Casey Anderson. The host of Nat Geo WILD's *Expedition Wild* and *America the Wild*, Casey was nicknamed the "animal magnet" while growing up in Montana. In 2002, Casey rescued an abandoned grizzly bear cub and dedicated his life to raising Brutus to be an ambassador for his wild grizzly cousins. Casey built Brutus a sanctuary which became the Montana Grizzly Encounter, a bear rescue and education facility. Together, they have been featured in the National Geographic Channel's *Expedition Grizzly* and in numerous educational videos, films, television shows, and commercials.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

Our approach during this voyage is one of discovery. We take time to stop and explore this beautiful and intriguing land up close in the company of expert naturalists who have an intimate knowledge of the region. Our small ship has the flexibility to take you ashore to places that few others see. The long days of summer allow for wildlife viewing well into the evening hours.

DAY 1 SEATTLE/JUNEAU, ALASKA

Fly from Seattle to Juneau, the capital of Alaska. Visit the imposing Mendenhall Glacier set in the dramatic Mendenhall Valley, and learn about the ever-changing landscape. There is time to explore Juneau on your own in the evening.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD OR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION (D)

DAY 2 TRACY ARM FJORD OR ENDICOTT ARM FJORD

Voyage into Tracy Arm or Endicott Arm, both spectacular glacially carved fjords, and see soaring

glaciers up close. Take a cruise in an expedition landing craft for an unbeatable view of sculpted icebergs, while keeping an eye out for harbor seals, porpoises, and arctic terns. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 PETERSBURG

Search for humpback whales as we head toward the small town of Petersburg on Mitkof Island, founded more than a hundred years ago by Norwegian fishermen. A visit to Petersburg provides a glimpse of a true Alaska town. Explore a unique Southeast Alaskan ecosystem, the "muskeg," with its stunted trees and carnivorous plants. There will be an opportunity for bike riding and an optional floatplane excursion. Enjoy a crab feast for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 EXPLORING FREDERICK SOUND AND CHATHAM STRAIT

These waters often make for great whale-watching. Look for Steller sea lions stretched out on the rocky islands that dot the channels. Take a walk with naturalists along a quiet forest trail or kayak in the tiny coves in this area. Meet research-

Above: The thunder and splash of a calving glacier thrills travelers in an expedition landing craft.

66

The naturalist John Muir was exploring the coves and islands of the Inside Passage when he wrote,

'To the lover of pure wildness, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world.'

Once you leave the larger towns in your wake and head up the quiet inlets... it's easy to find the Alaska that charmed Muir.

99

Heather Lende, "Alaska Cruise,"
National Geographic Traveler, September 2010



Watch short videos about this expedition at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video

On Chichagof Island, a brown bear and her cubs position themselves to catch salmon mid-run.

ers from the Alaska Whale Foundation—whose work is supported by a grant from the National Geographic–Lindblad Fund—and discuss some of their recent discoveries about the region's marine mammal population. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 ICY STRAITS AND THE INIAN ISLANDS

Hike and kayak among the Inian Islands, where an abundance of Steller sea lions and sea otters reside. We'll search for whales in the rich waters of Icy Straits and, conditions permitting, lower the ship's hydrophone to listen in on the whales' communication. (B, L, D)



The National Geographic Sea Bird

See our Alaska Family Voyage on page 122 and our Alaska, British Columbia, and Haida Gwaii journey on page 127. Visit our website for information on our Alaska's Inside Passage Photography Expedition.

DAY 6 GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Spend the day exploring magnificent Glacier Bay, where enormous glaciers flow from the ice fields far above. Watch and hear glaciers calving as tons of ice crash into the sea. Venture near islets that are home to seabirds such as puffins and guillemots, and look for humpback whales and orcas. Get a firsthand perspective on Alaska's indigenous people from a Tlingit cultural interpreter, who will be on board with us today to share stories passed down through oral tradition and art. Later, walk along trails among towering spruce trees. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 EXPLORING ALASKA'S ISLANDS, BAYS, AND FJORDS

Beachcomb, hike forest trails, or kayak in this area where perhaps the world's highest density of nesting bald eagles is found. Celebrate our Alaska expedition at a farewell dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SITKA/SEATTLE

After breakfast, disembark in Sitka, a unique town with a strong Russian heritage. Visit St. Michael's



Russian Orthodox Cathedral, a testament to Alaska's roots prior to the U.S. purchase of the territory from Russia. Then see eagles up close at the Alaska Raptor Center, an educational center that serves as a bald eagle hospital. In the early afternoon, transfer to the airport for the flight to Seattle. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: From May through August, expeditions depart every Saturday on the National Geographic Sea Bird and every Sunday on the National Geographic Sea Lion.

See the calendar on page 138 for specific departure dates. Certain departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1 Located on Main Deck	\$6,290
Category 2 Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	\$7,340
Category 3 Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	\$8,390

See National Geographic Sea Bird/Sea Lion description and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,150 in Category 1 and \$3,670 in Category 2. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Seattle to Juneau and return from Sitka is \$650 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a seven-day extension to Denali National Park. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2014 and receive complimentary round-trip airfare between Seattle and Alaska (a \$650 value) on the following 2014 departures: May 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31, and June 1 and 7.

ALASKA: DENALI TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Alaska's rolling tundra and taiga forests, spotting an array of wildlife, including caribou, moose, wolves, and Dall sheep.
- Immerse yourself in the pristine wilderness of Denali National Park on a variety of hikes, taking in views of the mountain that gave the park its name.
- Cruise through spectacular Prince William Sound to spot humpback whales and orcas, and experience the thunder of calving glaciers.
- Stay in private cabins in the heart of Denali, and at a mountain resort surrounded by snow-dusted glaciers and peaks.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA/DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Arrive in Fairbanks and travel south through taiga forests to Denali National Park. Then drive into the heart of this pristine wilderness in search of moose, caribou, gray wolves, grizzly bears, and Dall sheep. Settle into our remote lodge in the former mining settlement of Kantishna, surrounded by glacier-fed, braided rivers and the peaks of the Alaska Range. DENALI BACKCOUNTRY LODGE (L, D)

DAYS 2 AND 3 DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Spend the next two days exploring Denali's magnificent interior. Set out on hikes or walks of varying degrees of difficulty, or try panning for gold. While in the park, keep your eye out for migrat-

Above: With Denali looming in the background, a silhouetted moose sends ripples across still water.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Carl Tobin is an associate professor of environmental science and outdoor studies at Alaska Pacific University. He has written a book on the climbing history of a section of the Alaska Range, and mentored students in a variety of Alaska's environmental issues. A keen biker and climber, Carl will introduce travelers to the flora, fauna, and geology of his home state.

CARL WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES.

ing birds, including golden plovers, arctic loons, jaegers, and eagles. Weather permitting, take an optional flightseeing trip around Mount McKinley, North America's highest mountain, or hike to viewpoints to photograph its soaring 20,237-foot peak. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 4 DENALI/TALKEETNA

Take advantage of an early morning drive out of the park to catch wildlife during one of its most active periods. Then head to Talkeetna on the *Denali Star* train and explore this historic Alaskan village, a launching point for climbers headed up Mount McKinley. TALKEETNA ALASKAN LODGE (B, L)

DAY 5 TALKEETNA/GIRDWOOD

This morning, drive south of Anchorage along the stunningly scenic Seward Highway, past Turnagain Arm and the snowcapped Chugach mountains, which seem to rise out of the mirrored waters of Cook Inlet. This is part of a route that National Geographic has named one of its "Drives of a Lifetime." Continue to the scenic town of Girdwood, and explore this glacial valley on a hike through lush rain forest. HOTEL ALYESKA (B, L, D)

DAY 6 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

Embark on a day cruise on Prince William Sound, where the rich waters attract a variety of wildlife, from humpback whales and orcas to playful sea otters, puffins, and seals. Against a spectacular mountain backdrop, glide past towering tidewater glaciers, and listen for the telltale crackle and boom of impending glacier calving. Later this evening, celebrate your Alaska adventure with a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)



DAY 7 GIRDWOOD/ANCHORAGE

Enjoy up-close encounters with Alaska's wild residents at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, which rehabilitates injured and orphaned animals to the wild. After lunch, return to Anchorage and connect with your flight home. (B, L)

See our Alaska Family Adventure on page 125.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 14–20 • Jun. 23–29 • Jul. 21–27
Aug. 19–25 • Aug. 28–Sep. 3

Expedition Cost:

\$5,395

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,100. Airfare from/to your home city is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This expedition is designed to accommodate guests at different activity levels. In Denali, guests can choose easy, moderate, or challenging hikes available each day, ranging from one to nine miles.

THE CANADIAN MARITIMES



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the dunes, sandstone cliffs, and Acadian culture of the Îles-de-la Madeleine, and visit the French island of St. Pierre.
- Dock at coastal fishing villages and small islands along the rugged coast of Newfoundland.
- Explore two of Canada's UNESCO World Heritage sites: Venture into the ancient Viking settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows and examine the unusual landscapes of Gros Morne National Park with a naturalist.
- Join Gil Grosvenor for a private visit to the historic home of his great-grandfather Alexander Graham Bell on Cape Breton Island.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

SEPTEMBER 11 ST. JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA/ST.-PIERRE, FRANCE

Arrive in St. Johns and fly by private charter to St.-Pierre Island, France's oldest remaining overseas territory, where the *National Geographic Explorer* awaits. (D)

SEPTEMBER 12 LOUISBOURG & BADDECK, CAPE BRETON ISLAND, NOVA SCOTIA

On Cape Breton Island, venture into the Fortress of Louisbourg, a reconstructed 18th-century French fort. Then visit Baddeck, where Alexander Graham Bell, a founding member of the National Geographic Society, built his summer home. Explore the life of Bell with his great-grandson Gil Grosvenor on a specially arranged tour of the Bell Museum. (B, L, D)

Above: Stacks of lobster traps line the shores of a fishing village in Gros Morne National Park.

SEPTEMBER 13 ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE, QUEBEC

The wispy Îles de la Madeleine are home to caves, cliffs, and sandstone arches that are perfect for exploring. Visit colorful fishing villages to learn about Acadian culture. Weather permitting, set off on a sea kayaking excursion or a bike ride. (B, L, D)

SEPTEMBER 14 GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK, NEWFOUNDLAND

Graced by fjords, glacial valleys and a sweeping alpine plateau, Gros Morne National Park has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site for its unique geology. Go on a walk with our naturalists to learn about the forces that shaped this land and see ancient serpentine rock that illustrates the phenomenon of plate tectonics. (B, L, D)

SEPTEMBER 15 L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS

In 1960, the remains of an 11th-century Viking village were discovered at L'Anse aux Meadows, now a World Heritage site. Walk among the Norse ruins and reconstructed sod huts, and trace the saga of the Vikings in North America. (B, L, D)

SEPTEMBER 16 EXPLORING EASTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

The eastern coast of Newfoundland is wild and rugged, and often accessible only by sea. Discover tiny fishing villages, go hiking, or hop in a Zodiac or a kayak, weather permitting. (B, L, D)

SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18 ST. JOHNS/U.S.

Sail into the harbor of St. Johns, the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador, set at the most easterly point of North America. Head to Cape Spear and Signal Hill, stroll through the botanical gardens, or visit the Rooms Museum. Disembark the next morning and transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B, L, D; B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

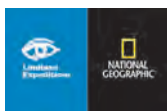
2014: Sep. 11–18

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$7,320
Located on main deck with porthole	
Category 2	\$7,760
Located on main deck with window	
Category 3	\$8,050
Located on main deck with window	
Category 4	\$8,540
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window	
Category 5	\$10,070
Located on Upper Deck with balcony	
Category 6	\$11,750
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite	
Category 7	\$13,450
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description, photo, and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$1,930 in Category 2 and \$2,020 in Category 3. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Newark and St. John's is \$750 (subject to change).

EXPEDITION TEAM



Gil Grosvenor has served National Geographic since 1954, as a writer, photographer, editor of the magazine, president of the Society, and now chairman emeritus of the

board. Gil helped design this itinerary based on his experience sailing the same waters with his father, Melville Bell Grosvenor, on assignment for a September 1967 *National Geographic* magazine article. Gill will join this departure along with a diverse team of experts.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

RESERVE ONLINE AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM

YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- From sweeping valleys to vast canyons and alpine lakes, explore Yellowstone National Park in search of grizzlies, bison, bighorn sheep, and the elusive gray wolf.
- Discover Yellowstone's thermal landscape of bubbling mud pots, brilliantly colored hot springs, and erupting geysers—including Old Faithful.
- Hike among glacial valleys with peaks towering above, and learn about the geology and history of Grand Teton National Park.
- Float on the Snake River beneath the jagged peaks of the Teton Range.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 BOZEMAN, MONTANA/MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYOMING

Arrive in Bozeman and travel to Yellowstone National Park—the world's first national park. At the historic village of Mammoth Hot Springs, stroll along travertine terraces sculpted by hot springs. Later, gather for a welcome reception and dinner. **MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS HOTEL AND CABINS (D)**

DAY 2 LAMAR VALLEY

Rise early to drive to the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley, where gray wolves were first restored to Yellowstone in 1995. Be on the lookout for bison, bears, elk, eagles, and the elusive gray wolf in this sweeping glacial valley. Return to Mammoth and enjoy an afternoon hike. (B, L, D)

Above: A steaming, gem-colored mineral pool adds to the ethereal landscape of Yellowstone National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Few people know Yellowstone country better than wildlife biologist **Jeremy Schmidt**.

He has worked in and around the park for more than 30 years, including stints as a

park ranger; a naturalist; a photographer; and an author, writing several articles for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. On daily walks, he will identify the flora and fauna, and give you a new appreciation of the magnificent scenery.

JEREMY WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH AUGUST AND BOTH SEPTEMBER DEPARTURES. SUE PERIN WILL JOIN THE JUNE DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HER BIO.

DAY 3 GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is a spectacular 20-mile chasm. Walk along the rim to view cascading waterfalls set against a dazzling red and gold palette. In Hayden Valley, look for bison, coyotes, elk, and perhaps even a grizzly. Then trace the scenic shores of Yellowstone Lake, and continue up and over the Continental Divide to the Upper Geyser Basin, home to Yellowstone's most famous geyser, Old Faithful.

OLD FAITHFUL SNOW LODGE OR OLD FAITHFUL INN (B, L, D)

DAY 4 UPPER, MIDWAY, AND LOWER GEYSER BASINS

Greet the day with the clockwork eruption of Old Faithful. Numbering more than 300, Yellowstone's geysers make up two thirds of all those found in the world. Explore this stunning geothermal landscape with our expert, and marvel at steaming fumaroles, belching mud pots, and gem-colored mineral pools. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK/JACKSON

Journey south to the Teton Range, where saw-toothed, snowy peaks rise from the valley floor. Take a scenic cruise on the emerald waters of Jenny Lake. Then continue to Jackson, a lively mountain town with Old West flair, and learn about its history on a guided walk.

THE LEXINGTON AT JACKSON HOLE (B, L)

DAY 6 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Head back into Grand Teton National Park to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. Enjoy a ranger-led hike in a glacially carved valley to Phelps Lake, and learn the history, both natural and human, of this spectacular park. Later, visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art or explore Jackson's



quaint streets. Then gather for a farewell dinner at one of the town's fine restaurants. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SNAKE RIVER/JACKSON

Enjoy a float trip on the Snake River this morning, and search for bald eagles, moose, and other wildlife. After lunch, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B, L)

See our Yellowstone and Grand Teton Family Adventure on page 125.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 15–21 • Aug. 17–23 • Aug. 31–Sep. 6
Sep. 7–13 • Sep. 14–20

Expedition Cost:

\$3,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,000. Airfare from/to your home city is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This expedition is designed to accommodate guests at different activity levels. Choose hiking options ranging from easy one- to three-mile walks, to moderate hikes of four miles or more.

GRAND CANYON, BRYCE, AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS

NORTH AMERICA ■



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the geologic and natural wonders of three national parks—Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon.
- Immerse yourself in the majestic beauty of the American Southwest: hike amid Bryce Canyon's surreal maze of pink spires and Zion's magnificent red rock monuments.
- Explore the Grand Canyon on foot and learn about its unique geology.
- Stay in historic national park lodges, and learn about the region's unique wildlife and varied vegetation.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 ST. GEORGE, UTAH/GRAND CANYON

Arrive in St. George and travel into canyon country, stopping at Pipe Springs National Monument and Kaibab Indian Reservation. Upon arrival at the Grand Canyon, check into our historic lodge and learn about its geology from our expert.

GRAND CANYON LODGE NORTH RIM (L, D)

DAY 2 GRAND CANYON/NORTH RIM

Set out to explore the canyon's rim, peering into the multi-hued chasm carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. Choose from a variety of hikes for all levels, and learn about the park's unique ecosystems and geology while enjoying sweeping views at every turn. Return to the lodge this evening, and capture the canyon's dazzling colors at sunset. (B, L, D)

Above: Russet rock pinnacles—called hoodoos—dwarf hikers in Bryce Canyon National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Kirt Kempter is a field geologist and teacher based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A Fulbright Fellow, Kirt has led many expeditions to Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon,

and Zion National Parks, and has published numerous geologic maps and articles on the geology of the American Southwest. He has conducted fieldwork on a National Geographic-funded project, as well as studies of plate tectonics and volcanism around the world.

KIRT WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY AND SEPTEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAY 3 ZION NATIONAL PARK

Journey north across the Kaibab Plateau into Zion National Park, stopping for a picnic lunch on the way. Check into our hotel and relax, or take an optional walk along a trail that parallels the Virgin River. CLIFFROSE LODGE & GARDENS (B, L, D)

DAY 4 ZION NATIONAL PARK

Spend today exploring Zion, a wonderland of sandstone slot canyons, lush hanging gardens, and cascading waterfalls. Hike the Emerald Pools Trail, passing under the cool spray of a waterfall. In the afternoon, explore the Narrows of the Virgin River, where our expert will discuss the geological events that have shaped this land for over 200 million years. This evening, visit the town of Springdale located just outside of the park. (B, L)

DAY 5 BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Beautiful landscapes unfold as we travel to Bryce Canyon. Stop for breathtaking views at Fairyland Point, then stroll along the Rim Trail overlooking Bryce Amphitheater. Settle into our home for the next two nights near the rim of the canyon. BRYCE CANYON LODGE OR BEST WESTERN BRYCE CANYON HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 6 BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day exploring Bryce Canyon's famous hoodoos—whimsical rock formations shaded red, orange, and yellow, which have been eroded into surreal spires. Hike or drive into the heart of the park, and learn about the geology behind this landscape of time-sculpted stone. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 KOLOB CANYONS/ST. GEORGE

Head to Kolob Canyons, a lesser known area of Zion National Park. Hike up the short Timber



Creek Overlook Trail and peer into the red sandstone expanse. After a final picnic lunch, return to St. George for your flight home. (B, L)

See our Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion Family Adventure on page 124.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: May 25–31* • Jun. 15–21 • Jul. 6–12
Aug. 17–23 • Aug. 31–Sep. 6 • Sep. 14–20*

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

\$3,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$800. Airfare from/to your home city and Utah sales tax are not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This expedition is designed to accommodate guests at different activity levels. Choose hiking options ranging from easy one- to two-mile walks, to moderate or strenuous hikes of four miles or more

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

GALÁPAGOS



THE GALÁPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, DARWIN'S LIVING LABORATORY, is home to an abundance of wildlife. Isolated from the mainland for millions of years, it is a rare wilderness where animals have no instinctive fear of humans. Traveling aboard the comfortable *National Geographic Endeavour* or *National Geographic Islander*, experience up-close encounters with unique species such as flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, and domed giant tortoises.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Snorkel amid shimmering fish, sea turtles, penguins, and frolicking sea lions.
- Cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals and birds unfazed by your presence.
- Observe rare giant tortoises at the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Explore the waters of the Galápagos by kayak, glass-bottom boat (*Endeavour* only), or Zodiac.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A diverse team of experts accompanies these expeditions to provide insights into the wildlife, landscapes, and pristine islands you encounter.

Lynn Fowler first arrived in the Galápagos in 1978 and became one of the first female naturalist guides to work for the park. She completed a doctorate based on her research on the giant tortoises of Alcedo Volcano on Isabela Island, where she lived for more than a year on the rim of the crater.

LYNN WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HER DEPARTURE DATES AND EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES. THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including vital research on the conservation of the rare and endangered Galápagos penguin and the seasonal migration patterns of Galápagos tortoises.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart for Guayaquil and upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. HOTEL HILTON COLÓN

DAY 2 GUAYAQUIL/GALÁPAGOS

This morning, fly to the Galápagos Islands and board our comfortable expedition ship. After lunch, we begin our exploration of the islands and their diverse wildlife. *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR* OR *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER* (B, L, D)

DAYS 3-8 EXPLORING THE GALÁPAGOS

In keeping with the nature of an expedition, our itinerary is flexible, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in this extraordinary wildlife sanctuary. (B, L, D DAILY)

Listed below are some of the islands we may visit during our expedition.*

Isla Bartolomé

Walk to the top of Bartolomé's volcanic cone for a stunning view of Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding beaches. You may also have the opportunity to swim with Galápagos penguins.

Isla Santiago

Santiago offers some of the best "tide pooling" in the islands. Follow a path along a series of pools and underwater caverns in search of Galápagos fur seals, marine iguanas, sea lions, and Sally Lightfoot crabs.

Isla Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz is home to the Charles Darwin Research Station, a breeding station for endangered native species. Learn about the Darwin Foundation and their giant Galápagos tortoise

* Please note: Itineraries vary slightly from week to week, subject to Galápagos National Park regulations. Each itinerary will include Isla Santa Cruz and a selection of the other stops listed on these pages.

Above: With the *National Geographic Islander* anchored in the distance, a sea lion nuzzles her playful pup.

“I saw my first wild, free-ranging tortoises on Santa Cruz.”

Amid lush uplands, they glistened like black bubbles on the green margins of rain-filled ponds.”

Roger Tory Peterson, “The Galápagos: Eerie Cradle of New Species,” *National Geographic* magazine, April 1967



Blue-footed boobies strut and flaunt their azure appendages in the hopes of luring a mate.

breeding program. Later, travel into the highlands and roam the moss-draped landscape where wild tortoises forage.

Isla Isabela

Spend the early morning on the lookout for dolphins; whales; sea turtles; and the unusual ocean sunfish, the *Mola mola*. Then trace the coast of Isla Isabela to the cliffs known as Punta Vicente Roca. Explore caves and hidden lagoons by Zodiac, and snorkel among sea turtles.

Isla Fernandina

Discover Punta Espinosa on Isla Fernandina. Through a thicket of white mangroves lies the largest colony of marine iguanas in the Galápagos. Sea lions play along the coast, and flightless cormorants hunt from their nesting sites against the dramatic backdrop of Isla Isabela's volcanoes.

Isla Floreana

At Champion Islet, snorkel among sea lions,

or peer into an underwater world in a glass-bottom boat (*Endeavour* only) while keeping an eye out for the endangered Floreana mockingbird. Those interested can visit Post Office Bay—if you see a letter addressed to someone who lives near you, the tradition is to deliver it by hand.

Isla Española

A paradise for bird lovers, Isla Española is home to Darwin's finches, blue-footed boobies, and waved albatrosses. Walk among vivid green-and-red marine iguanas, and observe sea lions up close on a pristine white-sand beach.

DAY 9 GALÁPAGOS/GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, disembark the ship and fly to Guayaquil. The evening is at your leisure. HOTEL HILTON COLÓN (B)

DAY 10 GUAYAQUIL/U.S.

Depart Guayaquil this morning, arriving home the same day. (B)



A photographer captures the image of a giant tortoise in the highlands of Santa Cruz.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014 and 2015: Expeditions depart every Friday on the *National Geographic Endeavour* and every Saturday on the *National Geographic Islander*. With temperate weather year-round, any month is a great time to visit the Galápagos. Peak prices have been established for popular travel periods (i.e. summer vacation). See the calendar on page 138 for specific departure dates through December 2014.

Expedition Cost:

2014	Prime		Peak	
	<i>Endeavour</i>	<i>Islander</i>	<i>Endeavour</i>	<i>Islander</i>
Category 1	\$5,490	\$6,060	\$5,990	\$6,560
Category 2	\$6,390	\$6,890	\$6,890	\$7,390
Category 3	\$6,950	\$7,440	\$7,450	\$7,940
Category 4	\$7,490	\$7,990	\$7,990	\$8,490
Category 5	\$9,420	\$9,910	\$9,920	\$10,410

Prime: For departures between Jan. 3–Feb. 8, Feb. 21–22, Apr. 25–May 31, and Sep. 5–Dec. 13, 2014.

Peak: For departures on Feb. 14–15, and between Feb. 28–Apr. 19 and Jun. 6–Aug. 30, 2014.

Visit our website for 2015 dates and pricing.

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single cabin pricing please visit our website. Add an additional \$500 per person to the peak price for holiday departures leaving Dec. 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2014.

Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Guayaquil is \$660 and between Guayaquil and Galápagos is \$450 (subject to change). See the *National Geographic Endeavour* and *Islander* descriptions, photos, and deck plans on page 133.

See our **Galápagos Photography Expedition** on page 110 and our **Galápagos Family Odyssey** on page 123. Visit our website for details on extending your trip to Machu Picchu.

PERU: LAND OF THE INCA



WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS OF PERU LIES A WEALTH OF ANCIENT INCA TEMPLES, Spanish colonial towns, and breathtaking Andean vistas. Discover the magnificent capital of Cusco, hike to ruins in the Urubamba Valley, and meet artisans and archaeologists. Then spend the night among the enchanting ruins of Machu Picchu, excavated by Hiram Bingham with funding from National Geographic.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Watch day break over the mountaintop Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.
- Join archaeologist and National Geographic grantee Peter Frost for talks on his archaeological finds in Peru, which have been featured in *National Geographic* magazine.*
- Attend a private demonstration of traditional Andean weaving techniques by a National Geographic grantee.
- Hear local musicians play indigenous instruments in a 16th-century monastery in Cusco.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Born and raised in a small Peruvian village, **Ernesto Ore** is well versed in the rich history, traditions, and modern-day customs of his people. He is currently president of the

Fundación Apu Kuntur, a nonprofit dedicated to saving the endangered Andean condor, and has served as an apprentice to a high priest and healer from the Andes. Ernesto has been introducing travelers to his native culture for more than a dozen years, lecturing on topics ranging from local wildlife and Inca ruins to traditional Peruvian perspectives on astronomy.

ERNESTO WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS DEPARTURE DATES. THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including excavations of early Inca religious sites in Peru.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LIMA, PERU

Depart for Lima, Peru's capital, founded in the 1500s by conquistador Francisco Pizarro. Transfer to our hotel and enjoy an evening to relax. HOTEL COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA LIMA

DAY 2 CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Fly to Cusco, and drive into the Sacred Valley of the Inca, stopping for a visit to Awanacancha, a llama and alpaca farm. Settle into private bungalows nestled in tropical gardens and enjoy a talk by National Geographic grantee Peter Frost* before dinner. In 2001 and 2002, Peter led National Geographic Society-sponsored expeditions into the remote region of Vilcabamba, Peru, and discovered the Inca and pre-Inca site of Qoriwayrachina (*National Geographic* magazine, February 2004). HOTEL SOL Y LUNA (B, L, D)

**On departures that coincide with Peter's assignments, one of his colleagues, anthropologist Jean-Jacques Decoster or ethnomusicologist Holly Wissler, will join us instead.*



Peter Frost, an explorer, writer, photographer, and National Geographic grantee, joins us on Days 2 and 3 of our journey.*

DAY 3 SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Travel further into the valley to Ollantaytambo and join Peter to explore the enormous stone fortress where the Inca won their greatest victory against the conquistadores. Back at the lodge, watch a weaving demonstration by National Geographic grantee Nilda Callañaupa, who has helped preserve traditional Inca textiles. After a barbecue lunch, witness the delicate dance of Paso horses and enjoy a chance to ride these elegant creatures. Go for a walk or a horseback

Above: Travelers pause to take in the ancient and awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu.

“Nilda really has rescued ancient weaving techniques.”

She saved these old methods. Every weaving here is handmade from natural materials. And designed with traditional patterns.”

Kim MacQuarrie, “The Golden Yarn,” a May 2013 *National Geographic Traveler* article that featured traditional Andean weaver and National Geographic grantee Nilda Callañaupa, who meets with us on this expedition.



Hiram Bingham poses at his expedition camp during the excavation of Machu Picchu.

ride this afternoon, visit a pottery studio, or indulge in the spa at our lodge. Gather for a performance of folk stilt-dancing tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 MACHU PICCHU

An exhilarating train ride brings us through the valley and up steep slopes to magnificent Machu Picchu. Isolated among mountain peaks, Machu Picchu is one of the world's most awe-inspiring sites. The sacred citadel was abandoned by the Inca, reclaimed by the jungle, and lost to history until it was rediscovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911 and excavated with support from the National Geographic Society. Discover the mysteries of the “lost city of the Inca” on a guided walk of the citadel and then check into our lodge—the only accommodation adjacent to Machu Picchu. This afternoon, explore the ruins further with a guide; head off on your own to see the Inca Bridge, built

into a cliff face; or take in views of the ruins from a private hot tub at the hotel. Watch twilight descend on Machu Picchu after the crowds have disappeared, and soak up the quiet enchantment of this legendary place. SANCTUARY LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 5 MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO

Hike up to the Sun Gate, the final checkpoint of the Inca Trail, and see day break over the citadel. After more time to explore, board the train and ride back to Cusco, the capital of the Inca Empire. Our home in this charming city is an exquisite 16th-century monastery just steps from the main square. HOTEL MONASTERIO (B, L, D)

DAY 6 CUSCO

Spend a full day exploring magnificent Cusco. Examine the massive stone boulders that make up the 15th-century Sacsayhuaman fortress, site of one of the bloodiest battles in the Spanish conquest. See the Coricancha, a 17th-century cathedral and convent built atop the ruins of an Inca temple. Enjoy free time before meeting up to experience the sounds of the Andes at a presentation of indigenous instruments. (B, D)

DAY 7 CUSCO/LIMA

Fly back to Lima, and visit the renowned Larco Herrera Museum, home of the world's largest private collection of pre-Columbian art. Catch the



A nuzzling llama catches an Andean village woman by surprise.



changing of the guard at the Plaza Mayor before we gather for a farewell lunch at Casa Aliaga, a lovely colonial home. Later, check into our waterfront hotel in the elegant Miraflores district, and take the rest of the day to relax or explore on your own. MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 8 LIMA/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Lima airport for your return flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Expeditions depart every week on either Saturday or Sunday. See the calendar on page 138 for specific departure dates through December 2014.

Expedition Cost:

\$4,990

Visit our website for 2015 dates and pricing.

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,200. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Lima begins at \$700, and flights within Peru are \$370 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

We will be traveling at high elevations while in Cusco and at Machu Picchu. Cusco is at an altitude of 11,200 feet and Machu Picchu, 8,000 feet. Participants should be physically fit. This expedition is not suitable for anyone who suffers from a respiratory disorder, a circulatory ailment, or a disability that limits mobility.

UPPER AMAZON



VOYAGE TO THE HEADWATERS OF THE MIGHTY AMAZON in the heart of Peru's rain forest aboard the elegant riverboat *Delfin II*. Slip through an intricate network of jungle waterways in a skiff or kayak, spotting hundreds of bird species, as well as caimans, tamarins, and sloths. Skim past massive lily pads, peer up at towering ceiba trees, and witness glorious sunsets on the still waters of the Amazon River Basin.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the flooded "Mirrored Forest" of Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve with a team of naturalists.
- Learn about the everyday life of the native ribereños on visits to villages at the river's edge.
- Go on rain forest hikes, birding walks, and nocturnal river safaris, and spot tropical wildlife from pink dolphins to scarlet macaws.
- Experience the wilds of the Amazon from the comfort of the intimate *Delfin II*.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a team of expert naturalists, **Kitty Coley** will join the July 12, 2014 departure. Kitty is an avid birder who serves as a consultant to *National Geographic* magazine.

As a professional geologist, she has worked in remote rain forests and rugged landscapes around the world. Her love of nature has inspired her to explore through scuba diving, backpacking, white-water and sea kayaking, and biking. A gifted and enthusiastic teacher and a popular National Geographic expert, Kitty generously shares her knowledge of geology, flora, and fauna.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LIMA, PERU

Arrive in Lima in the late evening and transfer to our hotel. COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA

DAY 2 LIMA/IQUITOS/NAUTA

After a morning visit to the celebrated Larco Herrera Museum, fly to Iquitos and continue overland to Nauta, where our ship awaits. Get settled in your elegant, hardwood-paneled cabin and gather for a welcome dinner of fine Peruvian cuisine prepared by our onboard chef. Tonight, step out on deck to gaze at the magnificent night sky over the Amazon. *DELFIN II* (B, L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

Glide into the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, one of the largest swathes of pristine jungle in South America, stretching more than five million square acres. The reserve floods annually with nutrient-rich waters and is known locally as



A blue morpho butterfly spreads its radiant wings.

the Mirrored Forest for the reflections created by its glass-like waterways. In kayaks or skiffs, skim along the Pucate River looking for parrots, macaws, and perhaps shaggy-tailed monk saki monkeys or saddle-back tamarins. Encounter a very different ecosystem on hikes on terra firma, or explore up-river in a skiff. Reach the junction of the Marañón and the Ucayali, two powerful rivers

“

The dolphins are swimming through the trees. Bending sinuous bodies, they glide through branches and curl like snakes around fluted trunks. As frog-green fish dart through the leaves, the dolphins, pink as bubble gum, snap at them with long, toothy beaks.

This is not some kaleidoscope dreamscape from a novel by Gabriel García Márquez; this is the wet season in the upper Amazon.”

Mark Jenkins, “River Dolphins,”
National Geographic magazine, June 2009



Sunset casts a golden glow as travelers head out by skiff to spot wildlife.

that border the reserve and converge to create the Amazon. Pay a visit to a village on the river's edge and discover the traditions of the Ribereños. Then, learn about the inspiring work of Minga Peru, a nonprofit that has helped improve health and livelihoods for the people of the Amazon with the support of the Lindblad–National Geographic Fund. (B, L, D DAILY)



The Delfin II

DAYS 5 AND 6 PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

Venture deeper into the rain forest on narrow tributaries, seeking out pink dolphins, iguanas, and giant water lilies. On a birding hike, look for an astounding variety of species, from tanagers and hummingbirds to oropendolas. As the sun sets, slip through the forest in a skiff, using a spotlight to find caimans, frogs, fishing bats, and other creatures of the night. From December through May we explore Atun Poza by skiff, looking for lagoon birdlife, and take a short walk to a local community. From June through November, hike through the rain forest in search of the soaring ceiba, or kapok tree. In skiffs, we reach Yanayacu lagoon, the furthest point in our journey, and with luck, enjoy a chance to swim with pink dolphins. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 7 AND 8 PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

During the wet season, look for massive paiche, the Amazon's largest fish, and infamous piranhas,



an important food source for the local people. As the water recedes later in the year, explore the spontaneous ecosystems of temporary islands that appear. Travel by skiff to Puerto Miguel and get acquainted with the culture, folklore, and daily life of the villagers. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 9 AND 10 NAUTA/IQUITOS/LIMA/U.S.

Enjoy one last morning excursion by skiff to view wildlife. After lunch, disembark in Nauta and pay a visit to the town's manatee rehabilitation center. Return to Iquitos in time for a late afternoon flight to Lima. After breakfast the next day, transfer to the airport for your flight home. COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA (B, L; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Expeditions depart Saturdays throughout the year. See the calendar on page 138 for specific departure dates through December 2014.

Expedition Cost:

Suites	\$5,990
<i>Located on Upper and Main Decks</i>	
Master Suites	\$6,990
<i>Located on Upper and Main Decks with panoramic views</i>	

Visit our website for 2015 dates and pricing.

See *Delfin II* description and deck plan on page 135. Prices are per person, double occupancy. Due to limited availability, single cabins are offered on a request basis only; please call for availability and rates. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Lima is \$700, and between Lima and Iquitos is \$370 (subject to change).

DISCOVERING COLOMBIA

new



EMERALD HILLS LUSH WITH COFFEE CROPS AND SPIKED WITH PALMS, pastel-hued colonial towns, and some of the best architecture on the continent—Colombia bursts with natural beauty and cultural treasures that have been hard to reach for decades. Delve into pre-Columbian culture and a rich colonial heritage in Bogotá and Villa de Leyva, and explore the “coffee triangle” deep in the Andes. Discover magical Cartagena and soak up the exhilaration of a beautiful country’s reawakening.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Venture into an underground cathedral carved out of salt, and see pre-Columbian artifacts at the renowned Gold Museum.
- Visit a coffee plantation and look for exotic flora and fauna in lush cloud forests.
- Learn about the work of native sons Fernando Botero and Gabriel García Márquez.
- Explore the fortress of Cartagena, the best-preserved castle in South America.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Christopher P. Baker has explored the length and breadth of Colombia since first visiting Cartagena two decades ago. A writer and photographer, he has produced guidebooks to Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Panama in the *National Geographic Traveler* series; and published his work in dozens of publications, including *National Geographic Traveler* and *Newsweek*. Christopher has lectured widely on Colombia on behalf of the Colombian Ministry of Tourism, and was named the 2008 Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year. He has led numerous trips for National Geographic Expeditions, and looks forward to sharing his knowledge of Colombia with our travelers.

CHRISTOPHER WILL ACCOMPANY THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014 AND FEBRUARY 2015 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Arrive in Bogotá this evening and transfer to our hotel in La Candelaria, the historic heart of the city and the hub of Bogotá’s cultural life. **HOTEL DE LA OPERA**

DAY 2 BOGOTÁ

Stroll past graceful plazas and Spanish colonial architecture on a walking tour of La Candelaria. Examine the works and private collection of one of Colombia’s most famous artists at the Botero Museum. Then immerse yourself in the glow of more than 30,000 pieces of pre-Columbian goldwork at the extraordinary Gold Museum. Ride a gondola to the summit of Cerro de Monserrate for panoramic views of Bogotá bathed in early evening light. Tonight, gather in one of Bogotá’s stylish northern districts for a welcome dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 ZIPAQIRÁ/VILLA DE LEYVA

This morning, set out for the 17th-century town of Zipaquirá. Descend some 600 feet beneath the Earth’s surface to witness the beauty and ingenuity of Zipaquirá’s Salt Cathedral, whose haunting, illuminated chambers were originally hewn out of rock salt by salt miners. Later, visit the Puente de Boyacá, the site of a decisive battle for Colombia’s independence in 1819, and continue to the tranquil town of Villa de Leyva, with a cobblestoned square that is one of the largest in South America. **HOTEL LA POSADA DE SAN ANTONIO** (B, L, D)

DAY 4 VILLA DE LEYVA

Discover the charms of Villa de Leyva on a walking tour this morning. Then set out into the nearby desert to view the mineral-rich, turquoise waters of the Pozos Azules and a 110 million-year-old kronosaurus fossil at the Museo el Fósil. At the archaeological site of El Infiernito, learn about the spiritual traditions of the Muisca Indians, who used the stone monoliths still found here to mark

Above: Carriages await passengers on the streets of colorful Cartagena.



The spindling trunks of native Quindío wax palms can grow up to 200 feet tall.

the seasons. Return to Villa de Leyva late this afternoon. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 BOGOTÁ/ARMENIA/ALCALÁ

Transfer to the Bogotá airport for a scenic flight over the Andes to Armenia, situated in Colombia's coffee triangle. More than half of the country's coffee is produced in this small region of lush, terraced hillsides and misty valleys backed by snowcapped peaks. Travel through the hills to the town of Alcalá and settle into our hacienda-style hotel. LA FINCA HOTEL EL BOSQUE DEL SAMÁN (B, L, D)

DAY 6 QUINDÍO

Experience the coffee-growing process from bean to brew at a local farm. This all-important industry employs a significant portion of the country's rural population. After learning about the phases of coffee cultivation, harvesting, drying, and roasting, sample a cup while taking in the beautiful surrounding landscape. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 COCORA VALLEY/SALENTO

On a hike through the Cocora Valley, discover the rich biodiversity of the region. Stretch your legs beneath swaying wax palms, an endangered species and the national tree of Colombia; and look out for exotic birds and orchids in the cloud

forest. Explore the picturesque town of Salento, and learn about the work of Luz a Salento, a foundation that provides arts training to the area's underprivileged youth. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 ARMENIA/CARTAGENA

Transfer to the Armenia airport for a flight to the lively Caribbean port of Cartagena. Surrounded by the most extensive fortifications in all of South America and brimming with stunning colonial architecture, this vibrant city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984. Settle into our hotel in the historic walled city, and sample local seafood at dinner this evening. SOFTEL SANTA CLARA (B, L, D)

DAY 9 CARTAGENA

Cartagena comes to life on a walking tour past colorful façades, colonial churches, balconies overflowing with bougainvillea, and bronze Botero sculptures. Trace the history of the city, once an important gateway to South America, a target of buccaneers, and a refuge for explorers. This afternoon, learn about the life and work of Colombian Nobel laureate Gabriel García Márquez with a local expert. Enjoy an evening to experience this enchanting city—and its world-class restaurants—on your own. (B, L)

DAY 10 CARTAGENA

Spend the morning at the magnificent fortress of Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, perhaps the



A tableau of bright colors, a local woman balances a load of fresh fruit.



most impressive colonial castle the Spanish ever built. Explore its complex labyrinth of tunnels and discover its innovations of architecture and engineering. Continue to the Convento de La Popa, perched on the highest hill in Cartagena. On a visit to a local foundation, learn about the challenges facing modern-day Cartagena. Take advantage of free time for a leisurely lunch and a stroll through town. This evening, ride a horse carriage through the walled city, and toast our Colombian adventure at a festive farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 11 CARTAGENA/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Cartagena airport for your return flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Nov. 5–15 • Dec. 7–17

2015: Jan. 10–20 • Feb. 15–25 • Mar. 8–18

This departure is a photography expedition. See page 112 for details.

Expedition Cost:

\$6,795

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room add \$1,400. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Miami to Bogotá and return from Cartagena begins at \$600, and flights within Colombia are \$495 (subject to change).

Please note: A State Department travel warning for Colombia is currently in effect (<http://travel.state.gov>). We expect to operate this trip as planned, but will continue to closely monitor events in the region, and will alter the itinerary if necessary.

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to Santa Marta and Tayrona National Park. Visit our website or call for details.

See our Colombia Photography Expedition on page 112.

EXPLORING PATAGONIA



CARVED BY FJORDS AND CAPPED BY GLISTENING GLACIERS, Patagonia is a natural wonderland. Cruise through a landscape of thick forests and icebergs to the tip of Cape Horn and the Strait of Magellan. Then continue to Patagonia's crown jewel—Torres del Paine National Park—and end our journey in Santiago, Chile's vibrant capital.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow Patagonia's pristine fjords past vast glaciers, and trace the voyages of great explorers around the legendary Cape Horn.
- Encounter unique wildlife, including guanacos, rheas, gray foxes, and Magellanic penguins.
- Spend three days hiking and horseback riding amid the granite spires, glacial lakes, and waterfalls of Torres del Paine National Park.
- Enjoy a tango performance in captivating Buenos Aires and venture into the colorful artists' quarter of La Boca.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Wildlife ecologist **Rob Hernandez** has long been fascinated by Patagonia's rich natural and human history, and has returned many times to explore its exuberant wildlife and dramatic landscapes. A 28-year veteran of the National Geographic Society, Rob first served as senior editor of *National Geographic* magazine, later becoming Senior Vice President and head of the Society's International Publishing Division. He spent his early career doing field research and documenting the world's more remote places through film. He has led expeditions to most continents, spent two years circumnavigating the Pacific and Indian Oceans in a small sailboat, and looks forward to retracing the steps of Drake, Magellan, and Darwin in Patagonia.

ROB WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires. Transfer to our hotel in the heart of the fashionable Recoleta neighborhood and explore the nearby galleries, museums, and cafés. Enjoy a tango performance at our welcome dinner tonight. LOI SUITES RECOLETA (D)

DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES

Spend the day discovering Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, known as "the Paris of South America." On a city tour, see the remarkable Recoleta Cemetery, burial site of Eva Perón. Continue to the historic presidential palace, La Casa Rosada, and the cathedral in Plaza de Mayo. After lunch, explore the cobblestoned lanes of San Telmo, as well as the colorful artists' quarter of La Boca. (B, L)

DAY 4 USHUAIA/TIERRA DEL FUEGO NATIONAL PARK

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and visit Tierra del Fuego National Park. Embark our ship and sail toward the famed Beagle Channel. M.V. *STELLA AUSTRALIS* (B, L, D)

DAY 5 CAPE HORN, CHILE/WULAIYA BAY

Weather permitting, take Zodiacs to the legendary Cabo de Hornos (Cape Horn) for a panoramic view from the southernmost tip of South America. Later, explore Wulaia Bay, where Charles Darwin landed during his voyage on the H.M.S. *Beagle*. Choose one of two walks to experience the spectacular beauty of the Magellanic forest. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 MAGDALENA CHANNEL/AGOSTINI SOUND

As we navigate the Magdalena Channel, spot penguins, dolphins, sea lions, and Andean condors. Cruise through majestic Agostini Sound and disembark for a closer look at Águila Glacier. On

Above: The twisted "horns" of Cuernos del Paine jut skyward in Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Park.



Tango dancers are caught mid-lunge against the colorful walls of La Boca in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

an easy walk on shore, take in spectacular views of the brilliant blue and white ice set off by black mountains, and learn about the geological forces that shaped this dramatic land. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 MAGDALENA ISLAND/PUNTA ARENAS

Take a morning walk on Magdalena Island, home to a colony of 120,000 Magellanic penguins. Disembark in Punta Arenas and continue across the southern pampas, looking for herds of guanacos and rheas, gray foxes, Patagonian hares, and black-necked swans. Settle into our deluxe lodge for the next four nights. **TIERRA PATAGONIA HOTEL & SPA*** (B, L, D)

DAYS 8, 9, AND 10 TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

During the next three days, tailor your explora-

tion to your interests, choosing among a variety of hiking and horseback-riding excursions in the park. Discover Grey Lake and its incredibly blue, sculpted ice; hike through beech forests along the shore of Laguna Azul; and marvel at rock paintings left by Aonikenk Indians, some of the earliest inhabitants of the region. Photograph wildlife near the northern limits of the park or relax at the hotel, taking advantage of its wonderful amenities. Enjoy evening lectures and cap off your stay in the park with a festive traditional barbecue. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 11 PUNTA ARENAS/SANTIAGO

Today, drive to Punta Arenas airport for the flight to Santiago, stopping for lunch along the way. Arrive in Santiago this evening and check into our hotel. **PLAZA EL BOSQUE EBRO** (B, L)

DAYS 12 AND 13 SANTIAGO/U.S.

Spend a full day exploring Santiago. On a walking tour of the city center, see the elegant Plaza de Armas, Palacio de la Moneda, and the 18th-century Metropolitan Cathedral. Visit La Chascona, the former home of Nobel poet Pablo Neruda, and enjoy a farewell celebration at a Chilean winery. This evening, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)

ABOUT TIERRA PATAGONIA

The lakeside Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, celebrated for its award-winning architecture, blends in with the landscape while offering stunning views of the peaks of Torres del Paine from each room. Suites have a two-story loft design with floor-to-ceiling windows, superior rooms feature a large full bathroom, and standard rooms offer a smaller bathroom. Tierra Patagonia offers the amenities and comforts of a five-star hotel, including a dining room; a bar; a library; a TV room; and a spa with an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor Jacuzzi, a sauna, a steam bath, and massage rooms.

ABOUT THE M.V. STELLA AUSTRALIS

Built in 2010, the M.V. *Stella Australis* has 100 outside-facing cabins and was designed specifically to cruise the spectacular Patagonian waterways. All cabins are the same size and feature a large window, an en suite bathroom, a satellite phone, and individual temperature controls. Cabins are available on three levels: Category A on the second level, Category AA on the third level, and Category AAA on the fourth level. Facilities include an open deck, three lounges, a library, a game room, an exercise room, and a single-seating dining room. National Geographic has reserved 17 cabins on all departures.



A Patagonian guanaco surveys the landscape.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Nov. 9–21* • Dec. 28, 2014–Jan. 9, 2015

2015: Jan. 11–23 • Feb. 8–20 • Mar. 8–20

*On the November 2014 departure, we stay at the Explora Lodge instead of Tierra Patagonia. See our website for a description and room categories for the Explora Lodge.

Expedition Cost:

Category A	\$10,390
<i>Tierra-Standard</i>	
Category AA	\$11,990
<i>Tierra-Superior</i>	
Category AAA	\$13,390
<i>Tierra-Suite</i>	

Categories A, AA, and AAA refer to ship categories.

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single pricing, please visit our website. On the December 2014 departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$500. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Miami to Buenos Aires and return from Santiago begins at \$1,200. Flights within Argentina and Chile are \$865 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a five-day extension to Easter Island or a five-day extension to Chile's Atacama Desert. Visit our website or call for details.



The M.V. *Stella Australis*

INSIDE ITALY



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE LIVELY RHYTHMS OF LIFE IN ITALY on an unforgettable journey to some of its lesser known treasures. Walk between the picturesque villages of the Cinque Terre, explore the Carrara quarries where Michelangelo chose his marble, and settle into a restored medieval *castello* to discover traditional Tuscany. Delve into the cultural centers of Florence and Siena, and step behind the scenes on an insider's tour of Rome.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk through terraced vineyards and charming seaside villages tucked into the dramatic slopes of the Cinque Terre.
- Gaze at Michelangelo's frescoes during a private after-hours visit to the Sistine Chapel.
- Stay in a 13th-century *castello* while exploring Tuscany's beautiful hill towns.
- Discover the town of Lucca on foot or ride a bike atop its medieval city walls.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Writer **Tim Jepson** is a passionate and lifelong devotee of Italy. Since graduating from Oxford, he has spent many years living in and writing about the country, produc-

ing more than a dozen books, two articles for *National Geographic Traveler*, and five National Geographic guidebooks to Italy's cities and regions. Tim has also worked on programs about Italy for the BBC and commercial television. A keen hiker, Tim takes pleasure in studying the food, wine, art, and culture of the country.

TIM WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./PISA, ITALY

Depart for Pisa and arrive the next morning. Drive to Italy's spectacular Ligurian coast and check into our hotel. Take a stroll through town before our welcome reception and dinner. HOTEL VIS À VIS (D)

DAY 3 THE CINQUE TERRE

Nestled in the folds of a rugged coastline, the five pastel-hued villages of the Cinque Terre tumble picturesquely from the rocky cliffs to the sea. Travel through steep, vine-covered hills to Manarola, and set out along a coastal walking path that links the villages. Follow the trail as it winds along the hillside, offering incomparable views, and learn about the history and geologic features of this region from our guide. Board a ferry and cruise north to Vernazza to take in the stunning coastline from a different perspective. Enjoy lunch on your own in Vernazza—a village open to

pedestrians only. This afternoon, take an optional vigorous hike or return to the hotel for time at leisure. (B)

DAY 4 CARRARA/LUCCA/FLORENCE

Begin the day in Carrara, home to the marble quarries where Michelangelo chose the massive blocks that he transformed into masterpieces. Here, walls of shining white marble soar skyward, cut from the mountains and accessible only by narrow switchbacks. Continue to the lovely walled city of Lucca and set out on a walking tour highlighting its Romanesque churches. Ride a bicycle atop the city walls or take advantage of free time to explore the town. Arrive in Florence, and enjoy an evening on your own. HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI (B)

DAY 5 FLORENCE

Take a morning walking tour of the historic center of Florence. In Piazza della Repubblica, discover the city's beginnings as a Roman settlement. Stroll through narrow streets past the fortified houses and towers that marked the medieval town, and



The centerpiece of a small piazza, the Baroque Trevi Fountain is one of Rome's most majestic.

emerge onto the open Piazza della Signoria, the political center of the city since the Middle Ages. Immerse yourself in the world of Michelangelo this afternoon. A native son of Florence, Michelangelo attracted the city's most powerful patrons, the Medici family, and inspired generations of artists. Encounter Michelangelo's peerless "David" and the evocative "Prisoners" at the Accademia. (B, D)

DAY 6 FLORENCE/GARGONZA

Travel south into the Chianti region. Visit the renowned Badia a Coltibuono vineyard and fortified former abbey for a wine tasting and lunch. Then continue to Gargonza, a medieval hamlet superbly



Charming courtyards and leafy parklands lie within the walls of Castello di Gargonza.

situated in the Tuscan countryside. This afternoon, settle into the privately owned 13th-century castello of Count and Countess Guicciardini—our home for the next three nights. Take the rest of the day to read, relax, and enjoy the swimming pool, set in an olive grove with a glorious view. CASTELLO DI GARGONZA (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SIENA

A short drive brings us to the Tuscan gem of Siena. Soak up the medieval flavor of the city on a walking tour that includes the Piazza del Campo; the Palazzo Pubblico; and the colorful, marble-clad cathedral. Stop for lunch on your own in one of Siena's many trattorias, and spend the afternoon exploring at leisure. (B, D)

DAY 8 TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Venture into the Tuscan countryside on a morning hike through the scenic landscape near Gargonza. During a free afternoon at the castello, stroll the gardens, relax by the pool, or try your hand at a game of bocce. Later, you may join the castello's chef for a cooking demonstration and a tasting of several fine local vintages. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 PIENZA/ROME

Drive through gorgeous scenery on the way to Pienza, an architectural treasure trove. Stroll through the heart of the town before sampling local specialties such as *pici* (hand-rolled pasta) and fresh pecorino cheese. Continue to Rome, arriving in the afternoon. Head into Vatican City to visit massive St. Peter's Basilica. Within its walls are the priceless works of Renaissance and Baroque masters, including Raphael, Michelangelo, and Bernini. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the Vatican Museums this afternoon where we will have access to rooms normally closed to the public. Our visit culminates with a rare opportunity to visit the breathtaking Sistine Chapel after hours and examine the masterpieces without the crowds. GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE (B, L)

DAY 10 ROME

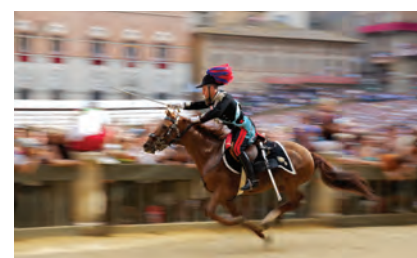
On a morning walking tour, visit the Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, and the Trevi Fountain. After lunch on your own, stroll through the ancient Forum and the Colosseum. Toast your journey at a Roman farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

DAY 11 ROME/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



PALIO HORSE RACE



The August 10, 2014 departure includes an opportunity to experience the legendary Palio di Siena, one of the most famous horse races in the world. Take your seats on Siena's Piazza del Campo and witness the thrilling pageantry of this bareback horse race that has been held since medieval times. Visit our website for a detailed itinerary.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Apr. 21–May 1 • May 7–17 • Jun. 11–21
Aug. 10–20 • Sep. 10–20 • Oct. 8–18

Expedition Cost:

\$6,395

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,690. Add \$700 to the cost of the August 10 departure, which includes a ticket to the Palio horse race in Siena. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Pisa and return from Rome begins at \$1,350 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Rome and Venice. Visit our website or call for details.

SOUTHERN ITALY AND THE AMALFI COAST



VENTURE INTO SOUTHERN ITALY on an expedition inspired by *National Geographic Traveler*'s September 2011 article "The Towns Italy Forgot." In Puglia, the peninsula that comprises Italy's "heel," discover whitewashed villages surrounded by ancient olive groves. Then visit the rugged landscapes of Basilicata and the famous *sassi*, or cave dwellings, of Matera. Cap off your adventure by exploring the gorgeous Amalfi Coast and the stunning ruins of Pompeii.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay in a unique hotel housed within the carved grottoes of Matera.
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Alberobello, dotted with more than 1,500 beehive dwellings called *trulli*.
- Hike among the extraordinary rock churches in Basilicata and the hillside villages of Amalfi.
- Go on an insider's tour of Pompeii with a local guide.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Born and raised in the south of Italy, **Massimo Bassano** has traveled, taught, and photographed extensively in his native country. Massimo photographed the article

that inspired this expedition, "The Towns Italy Forgot," for the September 2011 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*. His acclaimed book *The Color of Silence* detailed the 12 weeks he spent in a little-known Italian monastery, and his work has appeared widely in European publications as well as in *National Geographic Traveler* and on the National Geographic website. Massimo will enhance this expedition with his infectious enthusiasm, knowledge, and love for the region.

MASSIMO WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BARI, ITALY

Depart on an overnight flight to Bari, the capital of Italy's picturesque Puglia region. Transfer to our hotel, housed in one of the beautiful *maserie*, or fortified farmhouses, for which Puglia is renowned. Settle into your room and enjoy free time to explore this fabulous hotel and its waterfront before our welcome reception and dinner this evening. MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO (D)

DAY 3 VALLE D'ITRIA

Spend the day in the Valle D'Itria, traveling through landscapes of brick-red earth, silvery olive trees, and *trulli*—the fairy-tale-like stone dwellings found in this region. Wander past elegant mansions in the baroque village of Martina Franca. Explore Alberobello, a World Heritage site scattered with more than 1,500 *trulli*, which offers insight into this mysterious form of architecture that dates back to prehistoric times. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 LECCE

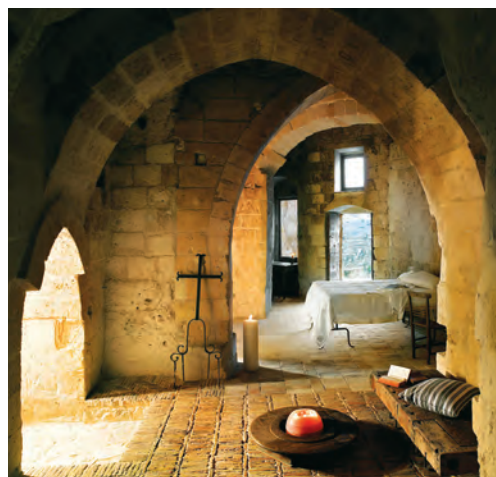
Travel to the town of Lecce, known for its elegant baroque architecture and the Roman amphitheater that remains visible under the present-day piazza. Enjoy free time to explore the town and stop for lunch on your own. Tonight, gather for a tasting of local wines followed by a feast of Puglia's most typical dishes. (B, D)

DAY 5 PUGLIA/BASILICATA

Visit the archeological site of Egnazia, where digs continue to reveal Bronze Age and Roman ruins. Then take a walk with a local naturalist among the picturesque olive groves that stretch in every direction of Puglia. Some of the groves contain trees that date back a thousand years and are protected by regional law. After lunch, journey to the mountainous region of Basilicata, where our destination is the extraordinary hill town of Matera. This World Heritage site features at its core a cluster of *sassi* (literally the "stones"), ancient dwellings and caves carved out of the soft rock face by prehistoric settlers and inhabited until the 1950s. Our remarkable

Above: Sea and sky set off the colorful geometry of stacked houses in Positano on the Amalfi Coast.

This trip was inspired by the September 2011 *National Geographic Traveler* article “The Towns Italy Forgot,” which explored Italy’s *alberghi diffusi*—distinctive inns built out of existing dwellings. We will stay in one of the article’s featured properties—Le Grotte della Civita—set within ancient grottoes that have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in the town of Matera.



At Le Grotte della Civita, each unique room is set within restored caves that have been inhabited for centuries.

hotel lies within these restored grottoes and retains the character and integrity of the original dwellings. LE GROTTA DELLA CIVITA (B, L, D)

DAY 6 MATERA

Spend a full day soaking up the unique ambience of Matera. Venture down the steep streets that crisscross Barisano and Caveoso, the two districts of Matera’s sassi. Visit a house furnished as it would have been when as many as ten people lived with their animals in one or two rooms.

Explore the *chiese rupestri*, or rock churches, some of which still have their original fresco decorations. After lunch on your own, head out on an easy hike along the opposite ridge of the ravine on which Matera is built and discover some of the rock churches that dot the countryside. Our expert Massimo will help travelers improve their photography skills along the way. (B, D)

DAY 7 PAESTUM/SORRENTO

Today, travel west to the ancient Greek archaeological site of Paestum. Explore its magnificent temples before gathering for lunch near the site. Continue to the lively and elegant town of Sorrento, perched over the Bay of Naples. Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore the town. IMPERIAL HOTEL TRAMONTANO (B, L)

DAY 8 AMALFI COAST

A morning drive brings us to the Amalfi Coast, where picturesque towns and villages nestle among cliffs that drop dramatically to the sea. Stop in Amalfi, once one of Italy’s four great maritime republics, and see its beautiful Romanesque cathedral. Visit Positano, perched on the cliff face at the water’s edge, and enjoy free time to wander the steep streets. Return to Sorrento, and enjoy dinner on your own tonight. (B)



DAY 9 POMPEII/SORRENTO

Spend the morning in Pompeii, a city frozen in time when Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, blanketing the area in a thick layer of ash and debris. The site was only discovered many centuries later, when, in 1748, explorers excavated dwellings, everyday objects, and the bodies of Pompeii’s residents, all remarkably preserved in the volcanic ash. Venture into this splendid and haunting city, see its frescoed villas, and get a rare glimpse of daily life nearly 2,000 years ago. Return to Sorrento for lunch on your own and an afternoon at leisure. Celebrate your journey at a farewell dinner this evening. (B, D)

DAY 10 NAPLES/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Naples airport for your return flights. (B)



Whitewashed and whimsical, the trulli of Alberobello are built of dry limestone slabs in a style that dates back to prehistory.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: May 6–15 • May 27–Jun. 5 • Sep. 25–Oct. 4
Oct. 9–18

Expedition Cost:

\$5,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,695. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Bari via Rome and return from Naples is \$1,200 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension to Rome. Visit our website or call for details.

UNDER SAIL ON THE LEGENDARY SEA CLOUD



THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE TAKING TO THE SEAS ON A

SQUARE-RIGGER: the billow and snap of

sails unfurling above, the creak of the ropes as the wind changes, the sense of strolling back in time along the teak decks. The beautiful, four masted *Sea Cloud*—possibly the most celebrated tall ship of our age—epitomizes this timeless sailing experience. Built in 1931 and designed by Marjorie Merriweather Post, this historic vessel has entertained royalty and dictators and served in a world war. Every part of the experience matches the elegance of the ship's décor: from world-class cuisine and an onboard pianist who plays at every meal to hidden outdoor spaces perfect for socializing or relaxing under the sails.

Now we invite you on board on three extraordinary voyages to the fabled sites of ancient Mediterranean empires.



This page: The *Sea Cloud* under full sail. Right page: The magnificent Library of Celsus in Ephesus, Turkey; the fortified city of Dubrovnik; cobalt domes set off the bright whitewash of a church in Santorini.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

TURKEY AND GREECE: A SAILING ODYSSEY

Step aboard the square-rigged yacht *Sea Cloud*, and sail along the magnificent isles and rocky coastlines of Turkey and Greece. Encounter glittering marble cities of the ancient world from Ephesus to Delos, and stroll through the timeless whitewashed villages of the Cyclades. Delve deep into the rich history and mythology of the Romans and the Greeks and encounter the legacy of the Ottomans in vibrant Istanbul.



- Sail the ancient seas aboard the legendary four-masted *Sea Cloud*.
- Experience the enchantment of Istanbul, the fabled city of the Ottoman Empire.
- Venture into some of the most important sites of the Greco-Roman era, including Delos, Didyma, and Ephesus.
- Examine items from Bronze Age shipwrecks at the Underwater Archaeology Museum in Bodrum, Turkey.

Dates:
2014: May 8–17 • May 16–25 • May 22–31

Expedition cost: from **\$8,790**

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

GREECE TO THE DALMATIAN COAST

From the ancient temples of Olympia to the medieval walled city of Hvar, immerse yourself in the history and culture of some of southern Europe's most spectacular places on board the legendary four-masted *Sea Cloud*. Discover the remarkable sites of Albania, cut off from the modern world for decades, and explore Montenegro, Ithāki, and incomparable Dubrovnik.



- Ply the waters of the Aegean, Ionian, and Adriatic Seas aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud*.
- Step back in history amid the ruins of Olympia, Greece, and Butrint, Albania, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Skim across Montenegro's Gulf of Kotor to Our Lady of the Rocks, a tiny islet created over centuries by local fishermen.
- Spend a day strolling along the marble-paved lanes and ramparts of Dubrovnik.

Dates:
2014: Jun. 9–20 • Sep. 6–17

2015: May 31–Jun. 11 • Jun. 10–21
Aug. 23–Sep. 3 • Sep. 2–13

Expedition cost: from **\$10,990**

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

SAILING THE GREEK ISLES

Sprinkled across the Aegean Sea and steeped in ancient mythology, the Cyclades are some of the most spectacular of Greece's many isles. Here, fishing boats cast colorful reflections in azure waters, and craggy headlands are punctuated by whitewashed villages and ancient ruins. Under the billowing sails of the *Sea Cloud*, voyage to the islands of Sifnos, Santorini, Delos, and more.



- Discover magnificent ruins at the ancient sanctuary on Delos, mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.
- Ride a donkey or cable car down a cliff side to the harbor on beautiful Santorini.
- Soak up the lively culture, mythology, and Venetian legacy of ancient villages.
- Discover the rich history of the *Sea Cloud*, and enjoy the enthralling experience of sailing aboard this legendary tall ship.

Dates:
2015: May 24–Jun. 1 • Sep. 12–20 • Sep. 19–27

Expedition cost: from **\$8,790**

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost.

See our website nationalgeographicexpeditions.com for detailed itineraries and pricing.

ALL TRIPS ON THE SEA CLOUD ARE OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

TURKEY: ISTANBUL TO THE TURQUOISE COAST



POISED AT THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, Turkey is graced with a stunning coastline; picturesque villages; and a unique cultural legacy shaped by the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires. Our journey begins in enchanting Istanbul. Experience the otherworldly moonscape of Cappadocia, stroll through ancient Ephesus, and then soak up the rhythms of everyday life as you explore the Aegean coast from İzmir to Bodrum.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Cappadocia's surreal "fairy chimneys" and the mazelike underground city of Kaymaklı.
- Go behind the scenes with researchers at Bodrum's Institute of Nautical Archaeology.
- Enjoy an insider's perspective on the historic sites and lively markets of Istanbul.
- Sail the turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea aboard a private *gulet*, a traditional wooden yacht.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Aydin Kudu—photographer, filmmaker, and native Turk—serves as a consultant to *National Geographic* magazine photographers and writers on assignment in Turkey, providing

invaluable access and interpreting his country's rich culture and history. He has accompanied National Geographic television crews, as well as scientists working on Society-funded archaeological expeditions. Aydin's photography has been exhibited in multiple cities, and his films documenting life, the environment, and social issues in Turkey have won three international and six Turkish documentary film awards.

AYDIN WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Depart on an overnight flight to Istanbul, the capital of three empires: Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman. After time to get settled this afternoon, gather for a welcome dinner. **DIVAN ISTANBUL (D)**

DAY 3 ISTANBUL

Delve into this fabulous city today. Visit the iconic Hagia Sofia, built as a church by Emperor Justinian in the sixth century and converted to a mosque some 900 years later. Here, beneath the minarets and buttresses added by the Ottomans, discover the hidden mosaics of the original Byzantine structure. Continue to the Hippodrome, site of coronations and chariot races. Then visit the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet I, known as the Blue Mosque for the blue Iznik tiles that line its interior. After lunch at a local restaurant, venture into the ancient Underground Cistern, also known as the Sunken Palace, an important water source during the Byzantine era. Later, examine a vast array of

artifacts at the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, and meander through the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest covered marketplaces in the world. **(B, L)**

DAY 4 ISTANBUL

Spend the morning at the Topkapı Palace, the opulent residence of Ottoman sultans for four centuries. After lunch, visit the Ottoman imperial Süleymaniye Mosque. From there, explore Rüstem Pasha Mosque, a treasure trove of exquisite Iznik tiles, and visit the nearby spice market. Later, enjoy a sunset Bosphorus cruise, followed by dinner on the waterfront. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 5 ISTANBUL/KAYSERI/CAPPADOCIA

Fly to Kayseri, and continue overland to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cappadocia. This surreal volcanic moonscape, whittled into unique formations by wind and rain over millions of years, is characterized by clusters of natural stone pillars and cones known as fairy chimneys. In the third century, Christians fleeing Roman persecution carved churches and entire villages into niches in the tuff stone. Enjoy a specially arranged lunch in a private

Above: Drops of bright color fill the sky as hot air balloons loft over the limestone crags of Cappadocia.

“Having an expert like Aydin, a native Turk, who was so very knowledgeable about many subjects, was invaluable; it set the National Geographic trip apart from others.”

Jenifer C., traveler



Whirling dervishes spin themselves into a spiritual trance.

home. Then tour the Göreme Open Air Museum, a vast monastic complex of frescoed medieval cave churches cut into the tuff. Later, take in a performance of whirling dervishes—mystical Sufi dancers who spin themselves into a spiritual trance. Following the performance, enjoy a rare opportunity to sit down with one of the dervishes for a conversation about his faith and practice. **HOTEL CAVEDELUXE (B, L, D)**

DAY 6 CAPPADOCIA

Rise before dawn for an optional hot air balloon excursion over this unique landscape. Then set out on an easy hike through Cappadocia's Red Valley. Visit the eight-story-deep underground city of Kaymaklı, dating back to the era of the Hittites. This afternoon, drive to Pasabağ, formerly known



Lush gardens surround the domes and minarets of Hagia Sofia in Istanbul.

as Monks' Valley, to see some of the most distinctive fairy chimneys up close. Visit a local pottery cooperative before returning to the hotel for dinner and a talk by our expert. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 7 CAPPADOCIA/İZMİR

Take advantage of a leisurely morning to explore on your own. Then transfer back to Kayseri for a flight to İzmir. Settle into our hotel overlooking the Kordon promenade on the Aegean Sea. **SWISSÔTEL GRAND EFES (B)**

DAY 8 EPHEBUS/ŞİRİNCE/İZMİR

Spend the day in Ephesus, once home to the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Explore one of the world's best preserved Greco-Roman cities, from its Great Theater and Terrace Houses to its elaborate water systems and beautiful mosaics. Visit the house where the Virgin Mary is believed to have lived during her final years. Later, continue to Şirince, a lovely hillside village where Ottoman houses are nestled against a backdrop of vineyards and olive groves. Wander the cobblestoned lanes, stopping in at wineries to sample local vintages. **(B, L)**

DAY 9 İZMİR/BODRUM

Travel to Bodrum, a charming port town and an important center for underwater archaeology. Meet researchers at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), where numerous National



Geographic grantees have based their studies—including current INA president Deborah Carlson and INA founder George Bass. On a tour of the conservation laboratory, get a behind-the-scenes look at some of the recent finds and the conservation work being done to preserve ancient artifacts. **THE MARMARA BODRUM (B, L, D)**

DAY 10 BODRUM

The Castle of St. Peter, a 15th-century crusader fortress, now houses the Museum of Underwater Archaeology—an impressive collection of relics excavated from ancient shipwrecks found along the Turkish coast. Visit new buildings dedicated to Bronze Age and “glass wreck” excavations supported by National Geographic. This afternoon, glide along the spectacular Aegean coast in a privately chartered gulet. Swim and snorkel or simply relax on deck, taking in the stunning views. Tonight, gather for a festive farewell dinner in Bodrum. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 11 BODRUM/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flights home. **(B)**

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Apr. 24–May 4 📷 • May 8–18
May 22–Jun. 1 • Aug. 28–Sep. 7 • Sep. 10–20
Sep. 25–Oct. 5 • Oct. 9–19 📷

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 110 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$5,695

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,250. The optional hot air balloon excursion on Day 6 is \$300 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Istanbul and return from Bodrum begins at \$800, and flights within Turkey are \$650 (subject to change).

See our Turkey Photography Expedition on page 110.

HUMAN ORIGINS: SOUTHWEST FRANCE AND NORTHERN SPAIN



TRACE THE FOOTSTEPS OF EARLY HUMANS as we explore the cradles of civilization in southwest France and on Spain's northern coast. On an expedition designed with paleoanthropologist Donald Johanson, examine carvings and cave paintings that illustrate life up to 40,000 years ago. From the Dordogne to Basque Country, stay in beautiful medieval towns that dot these long-inhabited landscapes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Examine the Paleolithic art of two UNESCO World Heritage-listed cave regions: France's Vézère Valley and the northern coast of Spain.**
- **Meet leading archaeologists for talks and private tours of cave sites.**
- **Visit Castel-Merle with Isabelle Castanet, whose family has excavated the site for generations.**
- **Explore Sarlat, France, and Santillana del Mar, Spain, two of Europe's best-preserved medieval villages.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



National Geographic grantee **Ana Pinto** is a Spanish archaeologist who worked with Donald Johanson at Arizona State University's Institute of Human Origins.

She specializes in fossilization processes, early human diets, and the origins of modern human behavior. Her fieldwork has brought her to England, South Africa, and Armenia, as well as caves and rock shelters in Spain, Tanzania, and Kenya. In 2001, she discovered Spain's Sopena rock shelter, which bears evidence of Neanderthal and Cro-magnon life. She and her team made major finds at the World Heritage site of Atapuerca and were awarded the prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize.

ANA WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 5 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BORDEAUX, FRANCE/ VÉZÈRE VALLEY

Depart on an overnight flight to Bordeaux. Journey to the beautiful Dordogne region—still commonly known by its pre-revolutionary name, Périgord. Here, rivers have carved up the limestone landscape, leaving cliffs and caves where humans have built their homes for tens of thousands of years. Settle into your country hotel in the Vézère valley, and gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner. HOSTELLERIE LA ROSERAIE OR LA VILLA ROMAINE (D)

DAY 3 PREHISTORIC SITES OF THE VÉZÈRE VALLEY

Begin the day at the National Museum of Prehistory with an introduction to Paleolithic art by one of the world's leading experts, Christine Desdemaïnes-Hugon, author of *Stepping Stones: A Journey through the Ice Age Caves of the Dordogne*. Then join Christine for a visit to Bernifal Cave, known for its tectiform images and engrav-

ings. After lunch on your own in the nearby town of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, see the majestic sculpted frieze of horses and bison in the shelter of the cliffs at Cap Blanc before finishing our day at Rouffignac Cave, the "cave of a hundred mammoths." (B, D)

DAY 4 LASCAUX II/SARLAT

Meet prehistory expert Denis Tauxe for a tour of Lascaux II, a painstaking recreation of the two primary chambers of the original Lascaux cave, whose famous paintings have been off-limits to visitors since 1963 to prevent deterioration. Travel to picturesque Sarlat, whose original half-timbered, golden-stone buildings and narrow cobbled streets make it one of the best-preserved medieval towns in France. After time to explore on your own, gather for a unique "prehistoric" lunch, made with the same ingredients used by Neanderthals. In the afternoon, join archaeologist Isabelle Castanet for a visit to Castel-Merle, a complex of prehistoric stone shelters more than 300 feet long, excavated and preserved by several generations of the Castanet family. (B, L, D)



Known for its buildings of ochre-colored stone, Sarlat has retained much of its medieval character.

DAY 5 PECH MERLE/TOULOUSE

This morning, venture into the spectacular natural galleries of Pech Merle, an enormous cave system filled with prehistoric art and artifacts dating back 25,000 years. See rare representations of human figures, engraved or spotted animals, and a mammoth drawn using the natural contours of the rock. The cave floor displays children's footprints preserved in the ancient clay more than 12,000 years ago. Following lunch on your own, continue to the lively university town of Toulouse. **GRAND HOTEL DE L'OPERA** (B)



Carved into the shape of a lion, a reindeer horn found at Isturitz displays symbols thought to be magical.

DAY 6 BASQUE COUNTRY/SANTILLANA DEL MAR, SPAIN

Drive southwest into France's Basque region, stopping in a picturesque village for lunch in a traditional Basque restaurant. In the afternoon, enter the Isturitz and Oxocelhaya caves with local prehistory specialist Aude Labarge and meet with the archaeological site director, Christian Normand. Used by human beings for more than 80,000 years, these superimposed caves have yielded tens of thousands of artifacts, including flutes, sculpted reindeer horns, and whale-bone tools. Cross into Spain this afternoon and trace the Bay of Biscay to the Cantabria region. Check into our charming hotel, a manor house situated in the heart of the medieval village of Santillana del Mar. **PARADOR SANTILLANA DEL MAR** (B, L, D)

DAY 7 PUENTE VIESGO CAVES

Come face-to-face with some of the oldest artistic representations in human history on a visit to the caves at Puente Viesgo, part of the Paleolithic caves of northern Spain World Heritage site. Recently identified as the oldest cave artwork in the world, the paintings in El Castillo cave date back at least 40,800 years. Explore the nearby Las Monedas cave—the longest in Puente Viesgo—and later, delve deeper into the prehistory of the region on a visit to the Altamira Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 HORNOS DE LA PEÑA CAVE/BILBAO

Continue our exploration of Cantabria's World Heritage-listed caves at Hornos de la Peña. Here, large-scale naturalistic engravings depict horses, bison, aurochs, goats, and other animals, as well as an unusual anthropomorphic figure with a human-like arm and a tail. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Bilbao, the largest city in Spain's autonomous Basque Country. Explore the city on your own this afternoon, and if you wish, stop in at the world-famous Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Gehry and located just a short walk from our hotel. **HOTEL MIRÓ OR HOTEL CARLTON** (B, L)

DAY 9 ATAPUERCA/BURGOS

Visit Atapuerca, where the oldest known hominin fossil remains in Europe have been unearthed. Our expert, Ana, is a two-time National Geographic grant recipient for her work in the Asturias region of northern Spain, and also spent several years excavating at the Atapuerca



archaeological site. Then continue to Burgos to visit the Museum of Human Evolution, where many of the Atapuerca finds are displayed. Return to Bilbao and celebrate your prehistoric adventure at a festive farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 BILBAO/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to Bilbao Airport for your flight home. (B)



The iconic Red Hand, found at Pech Merle, is a rare instance of the human body depicted in prehistoric art.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Aug. 29–Sep. 7 • Sep. 5–14 • Sep. 26–Oct. 5
Oct. 10–19 • Oct. 17–26

Expedition Cost:

\$6,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,095. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Bordeaux and return from Bilbao begins at \$1,100 (subject to change).

SPAIN'S NORTHERN COAST BY PRIVATE RAIL



CLIMB ABOARD THE NEW LUXURY *TRANSCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO* near Santiago de Compostela and set off on a rail journey along Spain's northern coast. Passing through medieval hamlets and historic towns, the train traces the fertile tract between the Cantabrian Mountains and the scalloped beaches on the Bay of Biscay. Explore the Basque country, Asturias, and charming seaside ports.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel in spacious, refurbished 1920s British Pullman cars on the elegant *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo*, remodeled in 2010.
- Admire diverse architectural styles, from the pre-Romanesque gems of Oviedo to Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum.
- Learn tips and techniques from a National Geographic photographer.
- Stay in a historic parador in Santiago de Compostela, and savor the region's cuisine and fine wines.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer **Fiona Dunlop** has explored northern Spain extensively, writing numerous articles about its culture and gastronomy. She is the author of the *National Geographic*

Traveler guidebooks for Spain and Portugal as well as *Spain Chic* and the critically acclaimed book *New Tapas*, which explores Spain's evolving food culture. Fiona contributes to numerous newspapers and magazines, and she has written more than a dozen guidebooks and food culture books. In addition to living for long periods in France, Italy, and London—her hometown—she has long favored Andalusia in southern Spain, where she frequently retreats to her house in the olive groves.

FIONA WILL ACCOMPANY THE AUGUST DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER **TINO SORIANO** WILL JOIN BOTH DEPARTURES FOR A DAY TO GIVE PHOTO TIPS TO TRAVELERS.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN

Depart on an overnight flight. Arrive in Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia and the ending point of the historic Way of St. James pilgrimage route. Check into our beautiful parador, considered one of the oldest hotels in the world. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner tonight. PARADOR HOSTAL DOS REIS CATÓLICOS (D)

DAY 3 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA/FERROL/VIVEIRO

This morning, explore Santiago's historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In the middle of the city sits the majestic cathedral, allegedly the burial place of St. James and the destination of many thousands of pilgrims for the past thousand years. You may choose to stay and witness the weekly Pilgrims' Mass at noon in the cathedral, a tradition that dates to the 11th century. After lunch, drive to Ferrol, where we board our train and continue on to Viveiro. Enjoy dinner and

settle in for the night. *EL TRANSCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO* (B, L, D)

DAY 4 RIBADEO/LUARCA

Our first stop this morning is the stately seaside town of Ribadeo. Wander beneath soaring rock formations at a magnificent beach aptly named Las Catedrales. Visit the ethnographic site of Os Teixos in Taramundi where we learn how, in ancient times, people of this region used the power of water to create tools and operate machinery. Enjoy lunch at the historic Parador de Ribadeo, a traditional Galician country home, and then board the train for the whitewashed fishing village of Luarca. After dinner, enjoy a live performance by a Spanish guitar player and a singer aboard the train. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 CUDILLERO/OVIEDO

From the port city of Candás, travel to the picturesque fishing village of Cudillero. Marvel at the "hanging houses" and colorful balconies perched on steep cliffs around the port, explore the chapel of Humilladero, and venture into one of the many fishermen's taverns if you choose. After lunch, continue to Oviedo, a city known for its pre-

Above: Covered in the fuschia velvet of blooming ice plants, Pancha Island juts into the Bay of Biscay just off the coast of Ribadeo.



Sheets of twisting titanium cloak the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.



Romanesque Asturian architecture. Visit the church of San Julián de los Prados, a stunning example of this style and a UNESCO World Heritage site. (B, D)

DAY 6 PICOS DE EUROPA NATIONAL PARK/COVADONGA/LLANES

Continue east through the Asturias region, tracing the coast as the Cantabrian Mountains rise along the southern horizon. Stop in Arriondas for an excursion into Picos de Europa National Park, where stony, snow-dusted peaks jut into the sky. Pay a visit to a mountainside cabin to sample traditional Asturian cider while taking in spectacular views. Venture into the village of Covadonga, site of the first victory of the Spanish Reconquest; and visit its basilica, an important pilgrimage site. Continue by train to Llanes for the night. (B, L)

DAY 7 POTES/COMILLAS

Journey to Potes, a beautiful village of medieval buildings and bridges nestled in the hills below the Picos de Europa mountains. See the Infantado Tower, a 15th-century bastion that dominates the village, and venture along the narrow cobbled lanes of the Old Quarter. Pay a visit to Santo Toribio de Liébana monastery, where monks have long venerated what is alleged to be the largest preserved fragment of the Lignum Crucis—the

Holy Cross discovered by St. Catherine in Jerusalem. Stop to taste a few vintages at a local winery before continuing to Comillas. Here, visit the Capricho de Gaudí, one of the first two buildings designed by the famous Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SANTILLANA DEL MAR/SANTANDER

After breakfast, visit the Altamira Museum and learn about the prehistoric cave paintings found here. Continue to Santillana del Mar, one of Europe's best preserved medieval villages. Have lunch at the Parador Gil Blas, a stunning ancestral home dating back to the eighth century, and then explore this enchanting village. Reboard the train for Santander, the seaside capital of Cantabria. Stretched out along narrow spits and scalloped beaches, Santander was a royal retreat in the early 20th century. This evening, sample Spanish tapas on a walk through town. (B, D)

DAY 9 BILBAO/VILLASANA DE MENA

Pull into Bilbao, a shipbuilding center and the largest city in the Basque region. Enjoy a city tour that includes the Guggenheim Museum, which houses works by Picasso and Warhol, but is better known for its cutting-edge design by Frank Gehry. Continue by train to Villasana de Mena. (B, D)

DAY 10 SAN SEBASTIÁN

After breakfast, disembark the train and continue to San Sebastián, the lively culinary capital of Basque country, just 12 miles from the French border. Stroll along the narrow lanes of the picturesque old town this afternoon before checking into our hotel. Tonight, toast our Spanish rail adventure at a farewell dinner. HOTEL MARIA CRISTINA OR PARADOR DE HONDARRIBIA (B, D)

DAY 11 SAN SEBASTIÁN/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Aug. 14–24 • Sep. 11–21

Expedition Cost:

\$11,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$5,995. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Santiago de Compostela and return from San Sebastián begins at \$915 (subject to change).

About our train, *El Transcantábrico Gran Lujo*:

The deluxe *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo* is a narrow-gauge train with original British Pullman coaches that have been elegantly refurbished. Its suites feature a queen bed (or two twin beds), a living room, large windows, and a private bathroom with a shower, hydro sauna, and steam bath. The train travels during daylight hours, allowing passengers to take in the scenery along our route, enjoy fine restaurants in the towns we visit, and then sleep in quiet and comfort while the train is parked at night. Visit our website for additional photos of the train.

National Geographic has reserved all 14 suites on *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo*.

Optional Extensions:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension to Barcelona or a three-day post-trip extension to Madrid. Visit our website or call for details.



El Transcantábrico Gran Lujo glides along the shore.

INSIDE SPAIN AND PORTUGAL



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel from Lisbon to Andalusia and Madrid, visiting seven UNESCO World Heritage sites along the way, including Granada's Alhambra.
- Witness the production of *azulejos*—hand-painted Portuguese tiles, and visit a private estate in Spain where artisanal olive oil is produced.
- Learn about the art of flamenco from a local expert, and follow an art historian through the world-renowned Prado Museum in Madrid.
- Stay at historic properties, from a 19th-century palace in Lisbon to a medieval convent in Évora and a stunning Moorish-style hotel adjacent to the Alhambra.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./LISBON, PORTUGAL

Fly overnight to Lisbon. After settling into our hotel, visit the Monument to the Discoveries and two World Heritage sites: the Tower of Belém and the Hieronymites Monastery, the jewel of Portugal's unique Manueline architectural style. Watch artisans at work at a private demonstration at the Museum of Decorative Arts. Tonight, soak up the sounds of *fado*, Portugal's evocative folk music. PESTANA PALACE (D)

DAY 3 SINTRA/LISBON

Begin the day at the impressive art collection at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum. Continue to Sintra, once the summer residence of royalty and now a World Heritage site, to see a stunning

Above: The Tower of Belém, built to commemorate Vasco da Gama's expeditions to India, stands guard at the mouth of Lisbon's Tagus river.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Tim Weed is an award-winning author and a founding director of National Geographic Student Expeditions. Tim has lived in Madrid and Granada, and traveled extensively

throughout the Iberian Peninsula during his career in educational travel. An avid outdoorsman, Tim has published his work in numerous magazines and journals and received a 2012 Best Travel Writing Award from Traveler's Tales.

TIM WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY AND SEPTEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

collection of *azulejos* at the medieval National Palace. The evening is on your own. (B, L)

DAY 4 LISBON/ÉVORA

Journey east through olive and cork oak orchards to a village where *azulejos* are made. In the World Heritage city of Évora, check into our hotel, a 15th-century convent, and discover Roman and Moorish legacies in this enchanting walled city. CONVENTO DO ESPINHEIRO (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 MÉRIDA, SPAIN/SEVILLE

Cross into Spain and stop for a tasting at a family-owned olive estate. In Mérida, explore Roman ruins and the National Museum of Roman Art. Late in the afternoon, arrive in Seville, the capital of Andalusia. The next day, visit Reales Alcázares, a Mudéjar palace still used by the royal family; the medieval Jewish quarter of Barrio Santa Cruz; and the largest Gothic cathedral in the world—another World Heritage site. Attend a talk on flamenco and a private performance before a festive *tapas* dinner. HOTEL GRAN MELIÁ COLÓN (B, L, D; B, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 RONDA/GRANADA

Travel to Ronda, set high above a deep gorge and brimming with remarkable medieval architecture. After lunch, continue to fabled Granada, the Moors' last holding in Iberia. Delve into the 14th-century Alhambra, exploring the Nasrid Palaces, the exquisite arcaded courtyards, and the Generalife gardens. HOTEL ALHAMBRA PALACE (B, L; B, L)

DAY 9 CÓRDOBA/MADRID

In Córdoba, venture into the Mezquita, an eighth-century mosque with a 16th-century church built into its center. After lunch, travel to



Madrid aboard the high-speed AVE train. HOTEL WELLINGTON (B, L)

DAYS 10 AND 11 MADRID/U.S.

Set out on a morning tour of the city including the Royal Palace. After time on your own, join an art historian for a visit to the world-renowned Prado Museum. Gather for a festive farewell dinner tonight. The next morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: May 6–16 • Jun. 10–20 • Sep. 9–19
Oct. 7–17

Expedition Cost:

\$6,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,500. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Lisbon and return from Madrid begins at \$1,000 (subject to change).

HOLLAND IN SPRINGTIME

EUROPE



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take to the waterways of the Netherlands on the canal barge *M.S. Magnifique* and discover Keukenhof, Kinderdijk, Amsterdam, and the “green heart” of Holland.
- Drive past striped fields of tulips on the Flower Route, one of *National Geographic Traveler*’s “drives of a lifetime.”
- Immerse yourself in the excitement of the world’s largest flower auction in Aalsmeer.
- Visit the cheese-weighing house in Gouda, and take in the charm of Amsterdam on a private canal boat.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam. After time to explore, meet for a welcome dinner. BILDERBERG GARDEN HOTEL (D)

DAY 3 AMSTERDAM

Step into the newly renovated Rijksmuseum to examine masterpieces including Rembrandt’s *Night Watch*. On a walking tour, stroll along the canals to the historic Noordermarkt and visit the Anne Frank Museum. Board the *Magnifique* this evening. *M.S. MAGNIFIQUE* (B, D)

DAY 4 HAARLEM

In the medieval market town of Haarlem, see the Town Hall and Grote Kerk, a 15th-century church

Above: Dazzling blooms turn the Keukenhof gardens into a patchwork of color.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Art historian **Paula Swart** was born in the Netherlands and studied at the Universities of Leiden and Amsterdam. She has researched and lectured on Dutch trade and exploration, and has a special interest in 17th-century Dutch still life paintings. She speaks five languages, including Dutch, and has published several books and numerous articles on art and architecture.

PAULA WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL DEPARTURE. JAN NIJMAN WILL JOIN THE MAY DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS BIO.

that houses Holland’s largest pipe organ. Take a walking tour and visit the Frans Hals Museum. (B, D)

DAY 5 LISSE/LEIDEN

Immerse yourself in a riot of colors and fragrances at the breathtaking Keukenhof gardens, where more than seven million blossoms display their bright hues. Later, travel the famous Flower Route to Leiden, home of the country’s oldest university and botanical garden. (B, D)

DAY 6 THE HAGUE/DELFT

Explore Den Haag (The Hague) and view masterpieces by Vermeer, van Dyck, and Rembrandt in the Mauritshuis collection. Continue to Delft, and watch artisans at work at Royal Delft, a ceramics factory founded in 1653. (B, D)

DAY 7 ROTTERDAM/KINDERDIJK/GOUDA

Sail through the busy port of Rotterdam on our way to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kinderdijk-Elshout, where 19 windmills built around 1740 to drain the marshes still stand. Explore Kinderdijk by bicycle if you wish. Our barge glides into Gouda this afternoon. Venture into the Gothic Stadhuis (City Hall) and see the stained glass windows of St. John’s Church. (B, L)

DAY 8 GOUDA/GROENE HART/OUDE WETERING

Pay a visit to the local market and the cheese-weighing house this morning. Learn about the history and production of Gouda cheese and sample several varieties. Then head out on a bike ride through the landscapes of Groene Hart (Green Heart), or stay on board for a cooking class. Enjoy a local beer tasting and dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 AALSMEER/AMSTERDAM

Rise early for an excursion to the world’s largest



flower auction in Aalsmeer, where more than five billion flowers are sold every year. Witness the bargaining among flower vendors, and get an insider’s view of the tulip trade. Cruise back to Amsterdam and enjoy time on your own before a canal cruise on a local boat. Celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

DAY 10 AMSTERDAM/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Apr. 10–19 • May 1–10

Standard Double Cabin	\$5,995
Junior Suite	\$6,995

See the *M.S. Magnifique* description, deck plan, and photo on our website. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,300. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Amsterdam begins at \$900 (subject to change).

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

SCOTLAND'S HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS



ON A VOYAGE THROUGH SCOTLAND'S FAMED LOCHS AND INLAND WATERWAYS

aboard the *Lord of the Glens*, experience mystical landscapes dotted with medieval castles and churches. Trace Scotland's compelling history on visits to battlefields, fortresses, and ancient tombs. Cruise Loch Ness; descend through the intricate lock system of Neptune's Staircase; and explore serene hills and harbor villages on the picturesque islands of Mull, Iona, Eigg, and Skye.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak on Loch Ness, and wander through the charming seaside town of Tobermory.
- Stroll across the battlefields at Culloden, where Bonnie Prince Charlie was dramatically defeated.
- Hike through stunning scenery on the Isle of Skye, and learn about the tiny community on the remote island of Eigg.
- Attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on an optional extension.

EXPEDITION TEAM



National Geographic photographer **Jim Richardson** is proud of his Celtic roots, and will join a diverse team of experts on the August 18 departure. A veteran of more than 40 articles for *National Geographic* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*, Jim spent two years photographing the Celtic realm for the March 2006 *National Geographic* article "Celt Appeal." His article "My Scottish Obsession" appeared in the August/September 2012 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*. Jim's work has also been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, and *Sports Illustrated*, and featured on *CBS News Sunday Morning* and *ABC's Nightline*.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./INVERNESS, SCOTLAND

Depart for Inverness, arriving the next morning. Board the *Lord of the Glens* to the strains of a highland piper and settle into your cabin—your home for the next seven nights. Gather for a reception and dinner on board while docked in Inverness. M.V. *LORD OF THE GLENS* (D)

DAY 3 CULLODEN/CLAVA CAIRNS/LOCH NESS

After a morning walk, visit Culloden, the infamous battlefield where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite forces were defeated in 1746. See the prehistoric standing stones and passage tombs of Clava Cairns. This afternoon, set sail on the Caledonian Canal, built in the early 19th century to create a route between western and eastern Scotland. Enter Loch Ness, cruise past the ruins of Urquhart Castle, and learn about the legendary monster said to inhabit the loch. Moor this afternoon at Fort Augustus and set out on a kayak excursion or a hike. (B, L, D)



The nimble *Lord of the Glens* glides by the ruins of Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness.

DAY 4 LAGGAN LOCKS/BANAVIE/ GLENFINNAN

Ascend an impressive flight of locks that runs through the heart of Fort Augustus. Glide down the tree-lined canal known as Laggan Avenue, or hike or bike along the towpath and rejoin the

Above: A stone footbridge links the tiny tidal island of Eilean Donan and its historic castle to the mainland.



Colorful houses cast long reflections on the harbor at Tobermory.

ship at the first lock. Sail into Loch Lochy and follow the canal to the town of Banavie, set in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Great Britain's highest mountain. Drive to the village of Glenfinnan, nestled within the mountains, and enjoy an afternoon walk in its picturesque landscape. Return to the ship and welcome local musicians on board for a lively evening of music. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 LOCH LINNHE/OBAN

Today, the *Lord of the Glens* descends Neptune's Staircase—a set of eight interconnected locks—and continues through Loch Linnhe to the town of Oban, set on a picturesque bay on the Firth of Lorn. Explore this lively town on foot, visiting a whisky distillery and McCaig's Tower, a hilltop monument that was inspired by the Roman Colosseum. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 ISLE OF MULL/DUART CASTLE/IONA/TOBERMORY

Continue to the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. Visit stunning Duart Castle, set dramatically on a bluff jutting into the Sound of Mull, and explore the keep and dungeon of this fortress. Then cross by ferry to explore the picturesque island of Iona. Visit the medieval abbey ruins and the rebuilt abbey church, and learn about the ecumenical movement based there. Stroll through St. Oran's Chapel and the royal graveyard where generations of Scottish kings are buried, and enjoy a brief walking tour of Iona. Continue to the charming town of Tobermory. After dinner,

staff from the Wings Over Mull Birds of Prey and Conservation Centre visit us aboard ship. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 TOBERMORY/EIGG OR ISLE OF RUM/INVERIE

This morning, explore Tobermory's lively quayside. Then sail north to the Isle of Eigg, catching glimpses of the islands of the Inner Hebrides along the way. At Eigg, get a sense of what life is like for the 90 or so people who live in this tiny island community. Look for marine animals, including Atlantic seals, minke whales, dolphins, and porpoises, as well as a variety of seabirds. Alternatively, visit the Isle of Rum, renowned for spectacular Kinloch Castle. Then sail to the town of Inverie, and enjoy a drink at the most remote pub in the British Isles. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 ISLE OF SKYE

Continue north to the Isle of Skye. At the Museum of the Isles, trace the legacy of the 1,300-year-old Clan Donald, who once ruled the west coast of Scotland, and take a walk through the woodlands of Armadale. Take a guided walk in the Cuillin Hills (weather permitting) amid some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery. Or explore Eilean Donan Castle and the quaint village of Plockton. Celebrate your voyage at a festive farewell dinner on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 KYLE OF LOCHALSH/INVERNESS/U.S.

Disembark in Kyle of Lochalsh and drive through the highlands to Inverness. Then transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jul. 28–Aug. 5* • Aug. 4–12 • Aug. 11–19*
Aug. 18–26

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$6,990
Located on the James Watt Deck	
Category 2	\$7,990
Located on the A. G. Bell and David Roberts Decks	

See *Lord of the Glens* description and deck plan on page 134. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$1,750 in Category 1 and \$2,000 in Category 2. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Inverness is \$1,040 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day extension in Edinburgh that includes the Military Tattoo, a spectacle of bands, fiddlers, and Highland dancers. Visit our website for details.



Experience Edinburgh's spectacular Military Tattoo on an optional extension.

A CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND

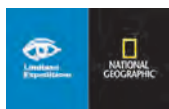


EXPERIENCE AN ENCHANTING LAND OF GEOLOGICAL EXTREMES on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. Encounter vast volcanic landscapes, walk on lava fields and ice sheets, and feel the spray of cascading waterfalls and natural hot springs. Go birding in the Arctic Circle, kayak into fjords and serene bays, and hike along magnificent and remote stretches of the coast. Cap off the adventure with a soak in the famous Blue Lagoon.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Europe's largest ice cap and the lava-sculpted landscapes of the Westman Islands.
- Soak in hot springs and see the thundering Godafoss Waterfall.
- Get up close to spectacular sculptures in ice on a cruise among the scattered icebergs of Jökulsárlón.
- Go whale-watching and spot birdlife on the shores of Iceland and its surrounding isles.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, photographers **Sisse Brimberg** and **Cotton Coulson** will join the July 12 departure. Sisse and Cotton have collectively photographed

more than 50 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. They have spent most of their careers working in Europe, shooting stories from the Arctic and Scandinavia to Italy and France. Sisse and Cotton have been awarded prizes by Pictures of the Year International, the National Press Photographers Association, White House Press Photographers Association, and Communication Arts. Based in Denmark, Sisse and Cotton will share their love of photography and their insights into the history and legacy of the Vikings.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Depart on an overnight flight to Reykjavík, the world's northernmost capital. On a walking tour of the Old Town, step into the Hallgrímskirkja, a church whose steeple soars to 210 feet, making it the highest building in Iceland. Learn about Norse culture at the National Museum, and browse a collection of Viking treasures and artifacts and unusual whalebone carvings. Then embark the *National Geographic Explorer*.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER (L, D)

DAY 3 EXPLORING THE WEST COAST OF ICELAND

Navigate Iceland's wild western frontier, sailing past the soaring Látrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Iceland and home to a huge population of razorbills. Continue to Flatey island, a trading post for many centuries, and stroll around the charming hamlet that sprang up here. Explore the coast by Zodiac this afternoon. (B, L, D)



Icelandic horses nuzzle in the hills near Húsavík.

DAY 4 ÍSAFJÖRDUR

Located in the Western Fjords, the town of Ísafjörður lies on a tiny spit jutting out into the water against a backdrop of steep hills, and is renowned for its traditional eiderdown production. Spot eider

Above: Surrounded by mist and crashing water, a traveler takes in the magnificent falls at Godafoss.



Shimmering a pale turquoise, the geothermal seawater of the Blue Lagoon is known for its healing properties.

ducks while hiking or kayaking in this idyllic Icelandic town. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 EXPLORING ICELAND'S NORTHERN COAST

Start the day in Siglufjörður, the center of a once-thriving herring industry, and stop by the Herring Museum for a talk and a tasting. Continue to picturesque Akureyri, Iceland's second largest city—with a population of just under 18,000. Stroll through the narrow lanes of the old town, with its beautifully maintained period houses set against a backdrop of snowcapped mountains, or see unusual Icelandic flora at the botanical garden. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 MÝVATN AND HÚSAVÍK

Drive to Mývatn, the most geologically active area in Iceland, and encounter a wondrous landscape of craters, lakes, and lava flows. See the bubbling mud pools at Hverarönd and continue through the Krafla geothermal area to the volcanic crater at Viti. Then take in an unforgettable sight: Godafoss, the thundering “waterfall of the gods,”



The National Geographic Explorer

which stretches some 90 feet and tumbles more than 35 feet into the glacial river Skjálfandaflljót. Meet the ship in Húsavík, and set sail for the tiny island of Grímsey, situated right on the Arctic Circle. Explore the coast by Zodiac, and experience the midnight sun of summer. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 EXPLORING THE LANGANES PENINSULA

Iceland's rugged east coast is an unspoiled stretch of rocky outcrops, hidden coves, and hills that beckon hikers. Today's schedule is flexible so that we can take advantage of wildlife sightings and explore this beautiful landscape with our naturalists by Zodiac and on foot. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 DJÚPIVOGUR

Dock in Djúpivogur and venture onto the vast Vatnajökull ice cap, the third largest in the world. For a closer look at the ice, take a boat ride through Jökulsárlón, a lagoon strewn with spectacular icebergs sculpted into all shapes and sizes by the elements. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 WESTMAN ISLANDS

The Westman Islands were formed by undersea volcanoes between 5,000 and 10,000 years ago, and are among the youngest of the world's archipelagos. In 1963, the world witnessed on film the birth of its newest island, Surtsey—a UNESCO World Heritage site—which we'll see as we cruise past the coast. In 1973, the island of Heimaey was threatened by lava flows that nearly closed off its harbor. Visit the crater, where the earth is still



hot, and take in amazing views of areas that were engulfed by lava. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 REYKJAVÍK/U.S.

We complete our circumnavigation today and disembark in Reykjavík. Enjoy lunch in town, and soak in the gem-colored geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon before our flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:
2014: Jul. 12–21 • Jul. 20–29

Expedition Cost:

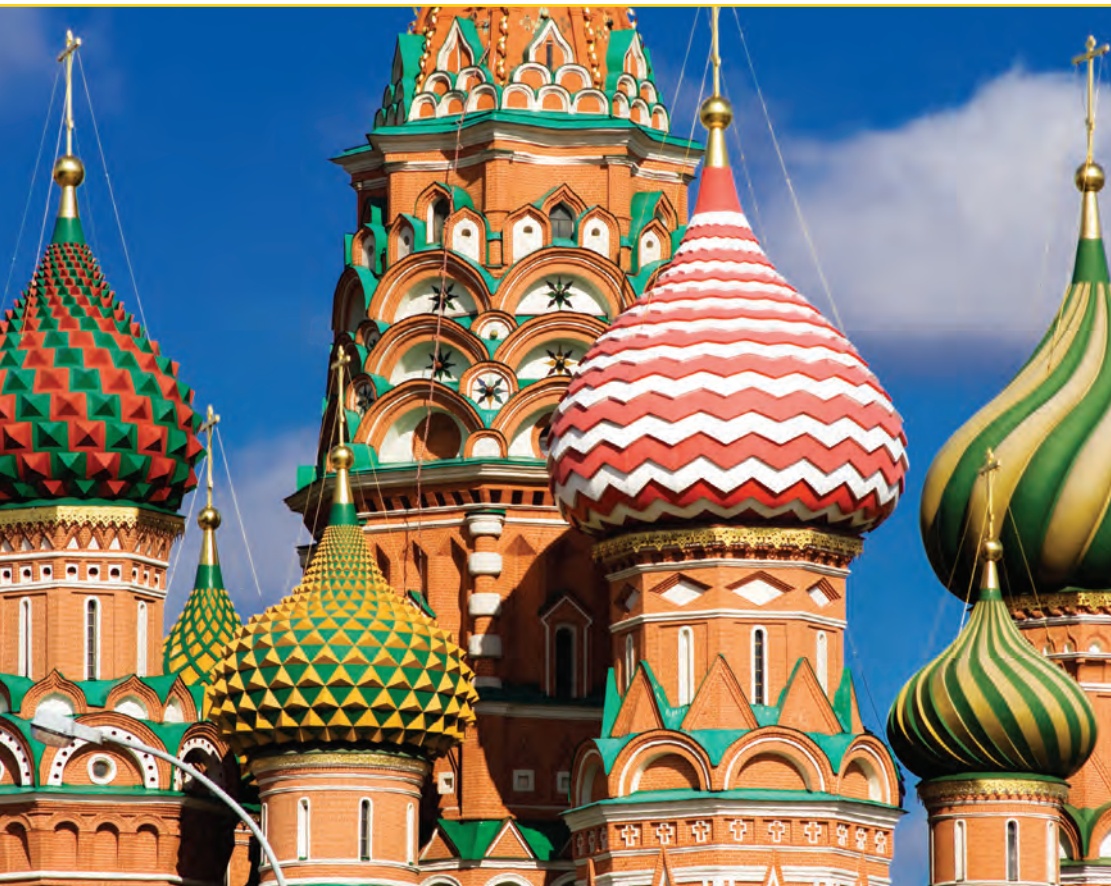
Category 1	\$7,990
<i>Located on Main Deck with porthole</i>	
Category 2	\$8,690
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 3	\$8,990
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 4	\$9,790
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window</i>	
Category 5	\$11,580
<i>Located on Upper Deck with balcony</i>	
Category 6	\$13,860
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite</i>	
Category 7	\$15,980
<i>Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony</i>	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description, deck plan, and additional ship information on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,170 in Category 2 and \$2,250 in Category 3. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Reykjavik is \$980 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day pre-trip extension to Reykjavik's Golden Circle. Visit our website or call for details.

TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL JOURNEY



SET OUT ON AN EPIC TRAIN JOURNEY

across one-third of the world, traveling from Vladivostok to the heart of Moscow along the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway. From the Mongolian steppe to Lake Baikal's remote shores to the snow-capped Ural Mountains, trace the history of tsars, exiles, and Mongols in the comfort of our luxury train, the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express*. Encounter remote cultures and the unique architecture of Siberia's wooden cottages and Moscow's onion domes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the evocative choral music and unique culture of Buryat's Old Believers.
- Trace the shores of Lake Baikal, and stop for tea in a family home.
- Attend musical performances, including a concert at the Decembrist House Museum in Irkutsk.
- In Moscow, take an in-depth tour of the Kremlin, and meet a Russian cosmonaut.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



George Munro, a professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University, lived and studied in the former Soviet Union and travels to Russia regularly to pursue his

research. A former Fulbright fellow, George is the author of five books, including *The Most Intentional City: St. Petersburg in the Reign of Catherine the Great*. He has written more than 200 articles about the region, lectured widely, and received numerous fellowships and distinguished service awards.

GEORGE WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE AND AUGUST DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE.

ITINERARY | 17 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Vladivostok. Check into our hotel and gather for a welcome dinner tonight. HOTEL HYUNDAI (D)

DAY 3 VLADIVOSTOK

As a strategic naval outpost, Vladivostok was closed to most of the world from World War II until the end of the Cold War. Get acquainted with this now-thriving city on a tour that includes the brightly painted railway station and Our Lady Grieving Orthodox Church, the only one of its kind allowed to remain in the city during Stalin's reign. See the Pacific Navy War Memorial and the *Krasny Vypel* steamboat, take in views of the city and its bay from the Eagle's Nest observation platform, and stroll the historic Vladivostok Naval Cemetery. This evening, climb aboard our luxury train and set off on our journey across Russia. *GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS* (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Khabarovsk

Stroll through the lively squares of Khabarovsk and visit the Natural History Museum by the Amur River. Learn about the flora and fauna of the region, and see artifacts from the indigenous tribes of the Goldi and the Gilyak. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 ON TRAIN/SIBERIA

As the train slips through rolling hills and Siberian villages of log houses, relax with a book, attend a talk by our expert, or simply watch the wild and remote countryside pass by. On our second day on board, we enter the sweeping Mongolian steppe. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

During a morning in Mongolia's capital city, visit the National Museum to trace the history of Genghis Khan and explore the culture of the steppe nomad. Then head for nearby Gorkhi-Terelj National Park to enjoy the alpine scenery, watch a demonstration of Mongolian horseback riding and visit a traditional *ger* (felt tent). This evening, enjoy dinner and a performance of Mongolian throat singing and traditional dance before we

Above: The whimsical spires of St. Basil's Cathedral rise above Moscow's Red Square.



An elaborately decorated wooden house reflects Siberia's distinctive architectural style.

reboard our train and continue on our way back into Russia. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 ULAN UDE, RUSSIA

The train rolls through the valley of the Selenge River, which flows into Lake Baikal. Stop in Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic and once a major trading post between China and Irkutsk. Pay a visit to a village of Old Believers, a group descended from 17th-century religious exiles whose fascinating culture has changed little over the centuries. Watch a performance of their unique choral music. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 LAKE BAIKAL

Arrive at beautiful Lake Baikal, called the "sacred sea" by locals and named a World Heritage site by UNESCO. The lake basin holds about 20 percent of the world's unfrozen fresh water. Our train route hugs the rocky shores and passes through 33 tunnels. Take in spectacular views from the train, and stop for a barbecue lunch on the shore. In the afternoon, explore the village of Listvyanka and join a family for tea in their home. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 IRKUTSK

Today, explore Irkutsk, an important Siberian outpost established by the Cossacks in 1652. In the early 19th century, many Russian artists, officers,

and nobles were exiled here for their involvement in the Decembrist revolt. Visit the city's historic sights, and wander through a delightful collection of classic Russian and Siberian cottages at the Museum of Wooden Architecture. Stop for a private bell-ringing performance atop a bell tower, and then enjoy a private concert and champagne reception at the Decembrist House Museum. (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 ON TRAIN/NOVOSIBIRSK

Spend the day relaxing on board, taking in stunning scenery as the vast Siberian taiga unfurls. The following day, stop in Novosibirsk, Siberia's largest city, to see the opera house and Lenin Square. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 13 YEKATERINBURG

Arrive in Yekaterinburg, where Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Visit the Romanov execution site—now a church dedicated to their memory, and view the city's ornately decorated wooden houses. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 KAZAN

Spend the day exploring Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, perched on the banks of the Volga River. Tour the city's Kremlin, the turquoise-

topped Qol Sharif Mosque, and the Peter and Paul Cathedral. Pay a visit to the Kazan Conservatory and enjoy a concert performed by the students. Then set off on a private cruise around the walls of the city's Kremlin before returning to our train to depart on the final leg of our journey. (B, L, D)

DAYS 15 AND 16 MOSCOW

Disembark in Moscow, and check into our hotel before an afternoon city tour. After dinner at a local restaurant, take a guided stroll through Red Square at night. The following morning, explore the legendary Kremlin. Visit St. Basil's Cathedral, and view court regalia from the Romanov dynasty at the Armory Museum. After lunch, visit the monument to the Conquerors of Space, which sweeps some 360 feet into the sky. Delve into the history of space exploration at the recently updated Memorial Museum of Astronautics, and enjoy a specially arranged talk by a Russian cosmonaut. MOSCOW MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 17 MOSCOW/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



The Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express

ABOUT THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

The Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express (pictured left) is a deluxe, air-conditioned train with comfortable two-berth sleeping compartments. Silver Class cabins measure 60 square feet and Gold Class cabins measure 77 square feet. Both cabin categories feature a private bathroom, a shower, and a sitting/sleeping area. There is a lounge car for daytime relaxation and socializing. The restaurant car serves fine local cuisine, made from the freshest ingredients and complemented with wines from around the world. See our website for additional train details and photos. National Geographic has reserved 20 compartments on each of these departures.

INFORMATION

Dates:
2014: Jun. 13–29 • Aug. 8–24 • Sep. 15–21

Silver Class	\$17,995
Gold Class	\$21,595

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$7,895 in Silver Class and \$10,495 in Gold Class. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Vladivostok and return from Moscow begins at \$2,350 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to St. Petersburg, Russia. Visit our website or call for details.

ALONG THE SILK ROAD: A JOURNEY BY CLASSIC TRAIN



CHART THE COURSE OF HISTORY TRAVELING ALONG THE LEGENDARY SILK ROAD aboard the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express*. Follow in the footsteps of merchants, Mongols, and princes, as we travel from Moscow to the ancient oasis cities of Central Asia, visiting four countries and six UNESCO World Heritage sites. See the tiled domes of Bukhara and Samarkand, and venture into mud-brick towns that evoke the camel caravans of old.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Step back in time at Turkmenistan's World Heritage sites, Nisa and Merv.**
- **Take a tour of Moscow's Red Square at night, and meet a Russian cosmonaut.**
- **Hear the dramatic tales of the emirs of Bukhara on a visit to their fortress palace.**
- **Enjoy a meal in an authentic yurt in the mountains outside Almaty, Kazakhstan.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Kristin Romey directs field operations for a National Geographic-sponsored archaeological project at Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, described as the Atlantis of the Central

Asian Silk Road. Kristin speaks fluent Russian, earned a graduate degree in nautical archaeology from Texas A&M University, and is a Fellow of the Explorers Club. She was one of the first Westerners to survey and excavate the former Soviet regions of the Black Sea. Her award-winning work as executive editor of *Archaeology* magazine covered topics ranging from the legend of the Golden Fleece in the Republic of Georgia to the legacy of Alexander the Great in present-day Uzbekistan.

KRISTIN WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE. MATTHIEU PALEY WILL LEAD THE OCTOBER PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION. SEE HIS BIO ON PAGE 111.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Depart for Moscow on an overnight flight and check into our centrally located hotel. After time to relax, gather for a welcome dinner. Meet your local guide the next morning for a full day's exploration of Moscow. On a city tour, see the State Duma building, where Russia's lower house of parliament meets; the Bolshoi Theater; and the notorious Lubyanka prison, former headquarters of the KGB. Take in sweeping views from Lomonosov Moscow State University, and visit the mighty Kremlin, the locus of Russian and Soviet power since the 12th century. See its three cathedrals where tsars were baptized, crowned, and buried; and peruse the collection of Fabergé eggs and other imperial treasures at the Armory. Visit the monument to the Conquerors of Space, which sweeps some 360 feet into the sky. Delve into the history of space exploration at the recently updated Memorial Museum of Astronautics, and enjoy a specially arranged talk by a Russian cosmonaut. After dinner at a local

restaurant, take a tour of Red Square and see St. Basil's Cathedral, whose whimsical, many-colored onion domes dazzle against the night sky. LOTTE HOTEL MOSCOW (D; B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 MOSCOW/VOLGOGRAD

Settle into your cabin aboard our luxurious train and journey to Volgograd, known as Stalingrad during the Soviet era. It was here that Russian forces turned back the German offensive—Hitler's first major defeat and a turning point in World War II. At the Mamayev Kurgan war memorial and museum, learn about the battle's devastating effect on the city. Tonight, we continue towards Central Asia. *GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS* (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 6 KARAKUM DESERT, KAZAKHSTAN

Enter Kazakhstan and round the north end of the Caspian Sea. As we roll across the vast Karakum (Black Sands) Desert, one of the most challenging stretches for travelers on the Silk Road, take in sweeping views and perhaps spot a camel or two. (B, L, D)

Above: The crenellated walls of Khiva, Uzbekistan, guard its ancient center in great earthen swells.



Late afternoon sunlight glints off the tile-clad monuments of Registan Square in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, a World Heritage site.

DAY 7 KHIVA, UZBEKISTAN

Once the capital of a khanate, Khiva reached its apex as a thriving trading post on the Silk Road between the 17th and 19th centuries. A trip into its historic center, the World Heritage site of Itchan Kala, is a journey back in time. Merchants haggle amid tiled clay mosques and madrasas that date back hundreds of years. Stroll through this splendid old city to witness the harmony of its planning and admire some of the most exquisite Islamic architecture in Central Asia. (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 ASHGABAT AND MERV, TURKMENISTAN

Brimming with golden domes, soaring minarets, and futuristic skyscrapers, modern Ashgabat is largely the creation of Turkmenistan's charismatic leader, the late Turkmenbashi. Visit the National Museum of History and Ethnography and the nearby ruins of Nisa, the capital of the ancient Parthian Empire, and one of the Roman Empire's great rivals. The following day, explore Merv, the oldest oasis city along the Silk Road in Central Asia and an important center of Islamic learning until it was sacked by the Mongols. (B, L, D DAILY)



The Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express

See our Silk Road Photography Expedition on page 111.

DAY 10 BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN

Our train turns northeast to Bukhara, whose stunning historic center has changed little since the days when caravans passed through. Wander down ancient lanes lined with mud-brick buildings and merchants, and pay a visit to the Ark, the fortified residence of the notorious emirs of Bukhara. After a lunch of local cuisine served in a former madrasa, visit the nearby Palace of Moon-like Stars. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 SAMARKAND

Set on the edge of the Qizilqum (Red Sands) Desert, the fabled city of Samarkand flourished in the 14th and 15th centuries under the rule of Tamerlane and his successors, who commissioned spectacular mosques and madrasas covered in blue tiles. Wander through Registan Square, lined by monuments that represent some of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in the world, and see the glittering turquoise domes of the nearby Bibi Khanum Mosque. Then marvel at Islamic scientist and ruler Ulugh Beg's incredible medieval observatory. (B, L, D)

ABOUT THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

The Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express (pictured left) is a deluxe, air-conditioned train with comfortable two-berth sleeping compartments. Silver Class cabins measure 60 square feet and Gold Class cabins measure 77 square feet. Both cabin categories feature a private bathroom, a shower, and a sitting/sleeping area. There is a lounge car for daytime relaxation and socializing. The restaurant car serves fine local cuisine, made from the freshest ingredients and complemented with wines from around the world. See our website for additional train details and photos. National Geographic has reserved 20 compartments on both departures.



DAY 12 TASHKENT

Tashkent is a patchwork of Soviet-style avenues, warrens of ancient mud-brick homes, and grand mosques. Take a tour of this eclectic capital city, reconstructed after a devastating earthquake in April 1966, and visit the Museum of Fine Arts. Board the train this afternoon for the final leg of our journey. (B, L, D)

DAYS 13 AND 14 ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN/U.S.

Arrive in Almaty, the burgeoning business center of Kazakhstan, nestled in the foothills of the Tien Shan Mountains. Visit the magnificent 170-foot wooden Ascension Cathedral before a special lunch in a Kazakh yurt in the mountains. Toast your Silk Road journey at a festive farewell dinner, and transfer to the airport the following morning. HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL ALMATY (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Sep. 19–Oct. 2 • Oct. 28–Nov. 10

This departure is a photography expedition and follows the itinerary shown but in the reverse order. See page 111 for details.

Silver Class	\$17,995
Gold Class	\$21,595

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$7,895 in Silver Class and \$10,495 in Gold Class. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Moscow and return from Almaty begins at \$1,350 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a six-day post-trip extension to Kyrgyzstan. Visit our website or call for details.

BHUTAN: KINGDOM IN THE CLOUDS



WITHIN THE FOLDS OF BHUTAN'S

MOUNTAINS lie sacred temples, dazzling rice fields, and villages unchanged by time. On this magical journey, experience the wonders of the last Mahayana Buddhist kingdom of the Himalaya. Hike to ancient dzongs, meet local families, wander through serene monasteries, discover unique artistic traditions, and witness one of Bhutan's spectacular local festivals or celebrations.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to Bhutan's most famous pilgrimage site, Taksang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest Temple).
- Mingle with community leaders and government dignitaries at a banquet dinner and gain insight into modern Bhutan.
- Witness colorful parades and processions at spectacular local festivals.
- Explore Gangtey Goemba, one of the oldest private monasteries in the country, which has been recently restored by Bhutan's finest artisans.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



A popular National Geographic expert, **Bill Jones** has led more than 100 groups across Asia and Europe to destinations as far-flung as Madagascar and Kazakhstan,

but his greatest expertise is in Southeast Asia and the Himalayan region. He has traveled regularly to Bhutan for more than 25 years and has experienced firsthand the country's progress and challenges. A great raconteur, he shares his profound insights into Bhutan's Buddhist beliefs—which form the cornerstone of the country's culture, art, and architecture—in an informal way.

BILL WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL AND SEPTEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including snow leopard research and conservation studies in Bhutan.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BANGKOK, THAILAND

Depart the U.S., cross the international date line, and arrive in Bangkok the next night.

NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI HOTEL

DAY 3 PARO, BHUTAN

From Bangkok, fly to the Paro Valley (7,300 feet) in Bhutan. Transfer to our hotel and enjoy time to relax, or visit the seventh-century Kyichu Lhakhang. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner. ZHIWA LING HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 4 PUNAKHA

This morning, witness a Buddhist blessing ceremony for the safe passage of our group throughout the kingdom. Then journey to Punakha, Bhutan's ancient capital. MERI PUENSUM HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 5 PUNAKHA

After an invigorating hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyel Chorten, a spectacularly situated temple,

be rewarded for your efforts with incredible views of the valley below. Then visit the Punakha Dzong, an impressive fortress guarding the southern end of the valley at the confluence of the Pho (male) and Mo (female) Rivers. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 PHOBJIKA

Travel to the alpine valley of Phobjika (10,000 feet), considered one of the most beautiful valleys in Bhutan. It is also the largest wintering site of endangered black-necked cranes, which arrive in November and stay through March. DEWACHEN LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 7 PHOBJIKA

Against a backdrop of forest-clad mountains, Gangtey Goemba, one of the oldest private monasteries in Bhutan, rises dramatically from a cluster of hilltop cottages. After examining the workmanship of Bhutan's finest artisans at this recently restored temple complex, take part in a butter-lamp-lighting ceremony. Then set off on a half-day hike, stopping to meet a family at a farmhouse and visit a local school. (B, L, D)

Above: The magnificent Taksang Lhakhang, or Tiger's Nest Temple, sits high above the lush Paro Valley.

66

I doubt that I could ever have a trip experience to top this one to Bhutan.
I will be thinking and talking about it for a very long time.

I have brought back home with me the true meaning of Gross National Happiness.

99

Joanna K., traveler



Against a backdrop of intricate murals, young monks spin a prayer wheel.

DAY 8 THIMPHU

Travel to Thimphu (7,900 feet), the present capital of Bhutan and home to the royal family. En route, stop at the Dochu La pass (10,000 feet) to admire thousands of prayer flags fluttering in the wind and (weather permitting) 200 miles of Himalayan summits. Visit the National Textile Museum in Thimphu, where Bhutan's finest weavings and brocades—considered spiritual expressions that are admired for their sophistication and diversity—are on display. Tonight, get a behind-the-scenes perspective on contemporary Bhutan during a lively banquet with members of the government, local dignitaries, and respected professionals. TAJ TASHI (B, L, D)



Young Buddhist monks peek through an ornate gateway.

DAY 9 PARO/PARO TESCHU FESTIVAL*

Perched majestically above the town of Paro, the Paro Dzong is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan and still serves as the administrative and religious center of the valley. Visit the dzong and enjoy a full day of celebrations at the Paro Tsechu festival. Bhutan's festivals are joyous expressions of its Buddhist culture. People travel from distant valleys and towns to socialize, celebrate their thriving Buddhist heritage, and enjoy one of the most important events on the Bhutanese calendar. ZHIWA LING HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 10 PARO

Our journey in the kingdom culminates with a hike to the most famous pilgrimage site in Bhutan: Taktsang Lhakhang, or the Tiger's Nest Temple (9,300 feet). Visible from afar, this stunning monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 2,000 feet above the valley floor. This evening, celebrate your Bhutanese adventure at a festive farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 PARO/BANGKOK, THAILAND/ U.S.

Fly to Bangkok and check into our hotel. The following morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight, arriving home the same day. NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI HOTEL (B, L; B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Mar. 9–20 📷 • Apr. 4–15*
Sep. 26–Oct. 7 • Oct. 17–28 📷
Nov. 5–16

For 2015 dates and pricing, please visit our website.

**The itinerary shown describes the April 2014 departure, which includes the Paro Tsechu festival on Day 9. Festivals or celebrations on other departures include the Punakha Tsechu festival in March; the Thimphu Tsechu festival in September; the Crane Festival in November; and a private masked dance performance in October. Visit our website for detailed itineraries.*

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 112 for details.

Expedition Cost:

\$6,595

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,095. There is an additional Bhutanese government tourism tariff of \$400 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Los Angeles and Bangkok begins at \$1,205, and between Bangkok and Paro is \$960 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

This is an active trip with hikes and excursions that involve stairs and uneven footing. The average elevation in Bhutan is 8,000 feet above sea level. This trip is not suitable for those with cardiac, respiratory, or circulatory disorders, or limited mobility. We stay at first-class hotels in Bangkok, Paro, and Thimphu; a simple Bhutanese-style hotel in the Punakha Valley; and a rustic lodge in Phobjika.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day pre- or post-trip extension to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Visit our website or call for details.

See our Bhutan Photography Expedition on page 112.

INSIDE JAPAN



DISCOVER JAPAN'S INTRIGUING CONTRASTS on a journey inspired by *National Geographic Traveler's* January/February 2012 article "Japan's Past Perfect." Explore Kyoto's iconic temples and ascend to the sacred pilgrimage site of Mount Koya. Step back in time in the age-old villages of Shikoku, then encounter cutting-edge architecture on Naoshima and the bustle of a revitalized Hiroshima.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in Shikoku's timeless Iya Valley, dotted with thatched cottages, shrines, and vine bridges.
- Stay at an ancient mountain temple, a traditional rural ryokan, and Benesse House, designed by acclaimed architect Tadao Ando.
- Experience a splendid spectrum of gardens, from Zen rock gardens to the lush moss gardens of Saihoji.
- Participate in a tea ceremony, meet a geisha, and attend a Buddhist prayer service.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer **Don George** is an editor-at-large and columnist for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, as well as host of the *National Geographic Live* series of conversations with notable authors. Don lived and

taught in Japan for two years, and his recent *National Geographic Traveler* article "Japan's Past Perfect" inspired this expedition. Don has edited eight literary travel anthologies, including *Travelers' Tales: Japan, Better Than Fiction*, and *The Kindness of Strangers*, and received dozens of writing awards, including the Pacific Asia Travel Association's Gold Award for Best Travel Article and the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year Award.

DON WILL ACCOMPANY THE OCTOBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./OSAKA, JAPAN/KYOTO

Fly to Osaka, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 2. Transfer to Kyoto and check into our centrally located hotel. **KYOTO HOTEL OKURA**

DAY 3 KYOTO

Kyoto served as an imperial capital for more than a thousand years, and many of the wooden temples and gardens from that era have been collectively designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Stroll the elegant Zen rock garden at Ryoanji and visit iconic Kinkakuji, or "temple of the golden pavilion." Enjoy a specially arranged visit to Saihoji, also known as Kokedera, or "moss temple," for the more than 120 species of moss that carpet its beautiful gardens. At tonight's welcome dinner, meet a former geisha to learn about the geisha profession and enjoy a short performance. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 KYOTO

Delve into the markets at Toji temple, where vendors hawk textiles, antiques, ceramics, and handicrafts. Continue to Nijo Castle, built in 1603 and designated a national treasure. Explore the castle's Ninomaru Palace, known for its beautiful wall paintings and its "nightingale" floors, designed to squeak when stepped upon to warn of intruders. This afternoon, visit an artisanal ceramics workshop and participate in a traditional tea ceremony. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 MOUNT KOYA

Travel by train and cable car to Mount Koya, headquarters of the Shingon Buddhist sect. Meet a temple priest and wander through the evocative Okuno-in cemetery, where the tombs of more than 200,000 samurai warriors and other dignitaries fill a grove of age-old cedar trees. Venture into Kongobuji, the chief temple of the Mount Koya monastery, and see work by artists of the Kano school of painting. Settle into our simple lodgings at Rengejo-in, the first temple of Shingon Buddhism, and enjoy a traditional Buddhist vegetarian dinner. **RENGEJO-IN MONASTERY** (B, L, D)

Above: The Zen temple of Kinkakuji, also known as the Golden Pavilion, casts its image on still waters.

“

Skins of morning mist rise from the valley floor...No other houses are visible. The only sound is the drip of predawn rain from nearby branches and from the farmhouse's roof of thick thatch. The faint scent of charcoal from last night's hearth rides on the air.

I feel as if I'm in the hermit's hut in a 17th-century ink-and-brush painting. ”

Don George on Iya Valley, "Japan's Past Perfect,"
National Geographic Traveler, January/February 2012



Clad in a crimson kimono, a geisha makes her way along a garden path.

DAY 6 MOUNT KOYA/IYA VALLEY

After attending an optional morning prayer ceremony, descend to the shores of the Inland Sea and ferry across to Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's main islands. Visit Ryozenji, the first stop along Shikoku's 750-mile and 88-temple pilgrimage route. Later, in Tokushima, see costumes and floats from the city's 400-year-old dance festival at the Awa Odori Kaikan museum. Our home for the next two nights is a traditional Japanese inn, or ryokan, nestled around hot springs in the Iya Valley. HOTEL KAZURABASHI (B, L, D)

DAY 7 IYA VALLEY

Travel along the steep slopes of the Iya ravine to a 300-year-old thatched farmhouse, home to the Chiiori Trust, a unique project that seeks to preserve age-old rural traditions in the valley. Continue to the Okuiya Niju Kazurabashi, twin suspension bridges made of intertwined vines, and hear the legends of their creation. Witness timeless scenes of village life in Ochiai, a community of traditional dwellings, some of which date from the Edo period (ca. 1700). (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SHIKOKU/NAOSHIMA

Travel north to Zentsuji, revered as the birthplace of the Buddhist priest Kobo Daishi. In Takamatsu,

stroll through the tranquil gardens of 17th-century Ritsurin Park. A ferry then brings us to the small island of Naoshima, which has recently emerged as a mecca of contemporary art and architecture. Get a new perspective on nature through inventive art installations at the Benesse House Museum this afternoon and stay in the adjacent hotel, designed by acclaimed architect Tadao Ando. BENESSE HOUSE (B, L, D)

DAY 9 NAOSHIMA/HIROSHIMA

Wander past the works of Claude Monet and James Turrell at the innovative Chichu Art Museum, built underground but designed to capture natural light and shadow. Also visit a house that is part of the Art House Project, which has transformed some of the island's older structures into imaginative works of art. Ferry back to Honshu and take the high-speed train to Hiroshima. RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL HIROSHIMA (B, L)

DAY 10 HIROSHIMA

Pay a visit to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum, which documents the atomic explosion that ravaged the city. This afternoon, go on an optional guided visit to Shukkei-en garden or explore this thriving



Soaring scarlet above the Seto Inland Sea, a torii, or wooden gateway, marks the entrance of the Itsukushima Shrine.



modern metropolis—a testament to Japanese resilience—on your own. (B, L)

DAY 11 MIYAJIMA/HIROSHIMA

Set off by ferry for a full-day excursion on Itsukushima Island, popularly called Miyajima. Venture into the 12th-century Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, a World Heritage site built over the water, where a vermilion torii (wooden gateway) appears to float at high tide. Take advantage of free time to go on a hike, visit temples, and stroll through the picturesque town. Back in Hiroshima this evening, gather for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 12 HIROSHIMA/OSAKA/U.S.

Transfer to the airport in Osaka for your return flight. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Mar. 18–29 • Apr. 18–29
May 19–30 • Sep. 18–29 • Oct. 18–29

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 113 for details.

Expedition Cost:

\$7,895

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,495. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Los Angeles and Osaka is \$1,200 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

The Rengejo-in and Hotel Kazurabashi are traditional Japanese accommodations with futons set atop tatami mats on the floor. The Rengejo-in, where we stay one night, is a typical temple inn, with simple rooms, rice-paper sliding doors, and shared bathrooms.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day extension to Tokyo and nearby Nikko. Visit our website or call for details.

See our Japan Photography Expedition on page 113.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

INSIDE CHINA



FROM THE WINDING GREAT WALL to the dramatic landscapes of the Three Gorges, experience the timeless beauty of a changing China. Beginning in Beijing, venture to the ancient capital of Xi'an, cruise the Yangtze on the deluxe *Yangzi Explorer*, and discover cosmopolitan Shanghai. Immerse yourself in Chinese culture through discussions with local experts, and catch a glimpse of old China in traditional neighborhoods off the beaten track.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meet a leading archaeologist and enjoy VIP access to Xi'an's astonishing terracotta warrior dig on a private tour.**
- **Hike along an isolated section of the Great Wall.**
- **Witness the new landscapes created by the Three Gorges Dam and attend a talk by a head engineer from the project.**
- **Explore Beijing's ancient *hutong* neighborhoods with a preservation expert.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Historian **Ken Hammond** first traveled to China in 1982 to study the language and stayed for five years. A professor at New Mexico State University, he directs a Chinese-

American university exchange program. He has produced a documentary on the revival of Confucian ritual and recorded a lecture series covering 5,000 years of Chinese history. Ken served as president of the Society for Ming Studies and as a visiting scholar at the History Institute of the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences.

KEN WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY 22 AND OCTOBER 23 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



Proceeds from our expeditions help support National Geographic's China Air and Water Conservation Fund, which provides grants to China's most creative scientists and conservationists who are working to solve problems confronting the country's air and water resources.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BEIJING, CHINA

Fly to Beijing, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 2. **THE PENINSULA BEIJING**

DAY 3 BEIJING

Spend the day exploring the imperial monuments of the city. Begin at the Temple of Heaven, a Ming dynasty temple complex where emperors held their prayer ceremonies. Then stroll across Tiananmen Square, the stage for many turning points in modern Chinese history—from the start of the Cultural Revolution to the demonstrations of 1989. Continue to the Forbidden City, home to the Ming and Qing emperors and some of the finest imperial architecture in China. View a collection of royal treasures and meander through the Imperial Gardens. Gather for a welcome dinner at an elegant restaurant overlooking Beihai Park. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 BEIJING

Visit an organization dedicated to the restoration

and preservation of the hutong, Beijing's traditional neighborhoods. Then follow an expert into hidden alleyways to see courtyard-style homes and learn about the principles of feng shui. Explore the Lama Temple, one of the largest centers of Tibetan Buddhism in the world. Tonight, savor Peking duck at a popular restaurant. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 BEIJING

Set off on an excursion to a section of the Great Wall not seen by many visitors. Here, the wall follows the hillcrest, providing excellent views of the surrounding countryside. Stroll along the top of the wall, or go on an invigorating hike along an unrestored section. After lunch, return to Beijing by way of the Olympic Park. (B, L)

DAY 6 BEIJING/XI'AN

Fly to Xi'an, China's capital for more than a thousand years and once the eastern terminus of the Silk Road. After a lunch of local specialties, check into our hotel. This afternoon, experience Xi'an from a unique perspective: on a bike or golf cart ride atop the massive Ming dynasty city wall. **HILTON XI'AN** (B, L)

Top: The Great Wall winds its way through China's rugged landscape.

“

We climb up to the main tower and disperse; the wall stretches as far as the eye can see on either side. For a country teeming with over a billion people, this infinite landscape is empty but for us.

Amazingly, we have the Great Wall of China all to ourselves.”

Sarah Erdman, National Geographic Expeditions Writer
Read more of Sarah's field report on our website.



From its perch high above the Yangtze, a traditional pavilion looks out at Wu Gorge, one of the famous Three Gorges.

DAY 7 XI'AN

Meet a leading archaeologist to learn about the excavation of one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century: the life-size terra-cotta army that stands guard at the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. Then examine these ancient troops up-close from the VIP platform at the site. Later, meander through Xi'an's lively Muslim quarter and enjoy an insider's perspective on a tour of the Great Mosque. Tonight, gather for a 16-course dumpling feast. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 XI'AN/CHONGQING

Stop at the tomb of the Han emperor Jing Di to

view thousands of funerary figures. The statues depict all walks of life—a contrast to the martial figures of Qin Shi Huang's tomb. Fly to Chongqing, one of the most populous cities in the world. At the Chongqing Zoo, observe pandas and learn about efforts to conserve them. This evening, board our ship and glide down the river toward the Three Gorges. *M.S. YANGZI EXPLORER* (B, L, D)

DAYS 9 AND 10 YANGTZE RIVER

Cruise past reconstructed villages and modern cities, witnessing life along the Yangtze—and the ways that the new dam has changed it. Dock in the town of Fengdu and meet some of its residents. The next day, awaken early to witness our approach to the first of the spectacular Three Gorges. Board smaller boats to travel up a narrow tributary, passing terraced hillsides and traditional fishing boats. This evening, arrive at the Three Gorges Dam and enter its intricate lock system. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 11 YICHANG/SHANGHAI

Disembark in Yichang and meet an engineer from the Three Gorges Dam project for a talk on the construction of the world's largest hydroelectric dam. After lunch, fly to Shanghai. Check into our historic hotel and enjoy an evening discovering one of the city's great restaurants on your own. *GARDEN HOTEL* (B, L)

DAY 12 SHANGHAI

Browse stunning collections of bronze, jade, and ceramics at the Shanghai Museum. After lunch

ABOUT THE M.S. YANGZI EXPLORER

The *Yangzi Explorer* (pictured left), our home for the three-day Yangtze journey, is one of the few five-star ships on the Yangtze. The ship has a capacity of 124 passengers, and features spacious cabins with private bathrooms and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors that open to private balconies. There are a limited number of suites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Amenities include a panoramic restaurant, a bar, a theater, two lounges, a library, a fitness center, a business center with Internet access, a clinic, a sundeck, a salon, and a spa. National Geographic has reserved 15 cabins on each of these departures.



The M.S. Yangzi Explorer



overlooking the lively streets of Old Shanghai, stroll along the winding paths of Yu Yuan, a 16th-century classical garden in the heart of the city. Enjoy time on your own this evening. (B, L)

DAY 13 SHANGHAI

This morning, visit Longhua Temple, an ancient Buddhist temple that houses the largest pagoda in Shanghai. The remainder of the day is unscheduled so you can explore Shanghai on your own. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 14 SHANGHAI/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your return flight, arriving home the same day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Apr. 10–23 • May 10–23
May 22–Jun. 4 • Sep. 13–26
Sep. 18–Oct. 1 • Oct. 23–Nov. 5

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 110 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$7,695

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,240. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Los Angeles to Beijing and return from Shanghai begins at \$1,200, and flights within China are \$590 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Hong Kong or additional nights in Shanghai. Visit our website or call for details.

See our China Photography Expedition on page 110.

TIBET AND NEPAL: JOURNEY TO THE HIGHEST HIMALAYA



DELVE INTO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF MOUNTAIN LORE and Tibetan and Nepalese cultures while visiting the fabled cities of Lhasa, Shigatse, and Kathmandu. Take in some of the most magnificent mountain vistas on Earth as we journey overland across the Tibetan Plateau to the North Face Base Camp of Mount Everest and into Nepal.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Admire the extraordinary landscapes of the Himalaya, from towering peaks and hanging glaciers to the lush foothills of Nepal.**
- **Venture into the legendary Potala Palace in Lhasa and visit Tibet's holiest and most historic monasteries.**
- **Gaze up at the soaring crags of Mount Everest from the storied North Face Base Camp in Tibet.**
- **Discover many layers of symbolism and belief at ancient Bodhnath, the largest Buddhist stupa in Nepal.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Adventurer **Peter Hillary** was born into mountaineering royalty: his father, Sir Edmund Hillary, made the first ascent of Mount Everest in 1953.

When Peter first climbed Everest in 1990, he and his father became the first father and son to reach the summit. He reached the summit again in 2002 on a National Geographic-sponsored ascent later featured in the film *Surviving Everest* and the National Geographic documentary *Everest: 50 Years on the Mountain*. Peter has completed more than 40 mountaineering expeditions and climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents. He is deeply involved in aid programs for the people of the Mount Everest region in Nepal.

PETER WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 10 DEPARTURES. IRA BLOCK WILL LEAD THE OCTOBER 31 PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION. SEE HIS BIO ON PAGE 113.

ITINERARY | 16 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BEIJING, CHINA

Depart for Beijing, cross the international date line, and arrive the next evening. THE PENINSULA BEIJING

DAY 3 BEIJING/LHASA, TIBET

This morning, embark on one of the world's most astonishing flights, crossing the Hengduan Range and three of Asia's greatest rivers—the Salween, the Mekong, and the Yangtze—en route to Lhasa (11,970 feet). Drive to the Holy City, scanning the vast countryside for the first sight of the Potala Palace. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner this evening. KYICHU HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 4 LHASA

Explore Tibet's two greatest monasteries: Drepung and Sera. Drepung once housed 10,000 monks, and Sera almost as many. If we're lucky, we'll see and hear the monks' lilting, booming chanting of the sutras, or their theatrical debate. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 LHASA

Venture up to the Potala Palace and explore the grandest of its myriad rooms. See the jeweled burial chortens of past Dalai Lamas as well as statuary, frescoes, and paintings. Later, visit the Jokhang, Tibet's holiest temple; and wander through the Barkhor, Lhasa's old market. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 LHASA

Take an excursion to the historic Ganden Monastery, destroyed by China's Red Army in 1966 and now a working monastery once again. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 GYANGZÉ

Our drive to Gyangzê (12,956 feet) traces the turquoise waters of the holy Lake Yamdrok and crosses two spectacular high passes. Stop to view a magnificent hanging glacier, and if you wish, take a short walk for a closer view. YETI HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 8 GYANGZÉ/SHIGATSE

Explore the Pelkor Chode, a complex of monas-

Above: Severe and splendid, the snowy north face of Mount Everest glows in the sunlight.



The immense, multitiered Potala Palace rises majestically above the city of Lhasa.

teries and temples in which all four major sects of Tibetan Buddhism worshipped. Then drive to Shigatse (12,792 feet), home to the immense Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the seat of Tibet's second highest incarnation, the Panchen Lama. Venture into its warren of chapels and shrines linked by mysterious alleyways and steep staircases. Walk back to the hotel through the town of Shigatse, stopping to browse in the old market. TASHI CHOE TA (B, L, D)

DAY 9 SHIGATSE

Take an optional hike from remote Ja Village to Ngor Monastery, crossing the Chak La pass (14,700 feet). From the pass, the tiny, remote monastery is visible below, and we continue walking another 1,000 feet down to reach it. Those who don't wish to make the five-hour hike can spend the day further exploring Shigatse. As one of Tibet's larger towns, Shigatse is at a crossroads between its history as an ancient Tibetan settlement and the encroaching modernity of contemporary China. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 XÊGAR

The scenic drive to Xêgar crosses the Lakpa La pass (17,121 feet) and provides us with our first glimpse of Mount Everest (weather permitting). Settle into our hotel in the small town of Xêgar (14,268 feet), where the first expeditions to Mount Everest stopped in the 1920s. QOMOLANGMA HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 11 XÊGAR/EVEREST NORTH FACE BASE CAMP/TINGRI

From Xêgar, cross the 17,000-foot Pang La pass. Weather permitting, take in a superb vista of ice-capped peaks dwarfed by majestic Mount Everest—described by George Leigh Mallory, who pioneered today's route, as a "prodigious white fang...[rising] from the jaw of the world." Visit Rongbuk Monastery before continuing to the North Face Base Camp of Everest. SNOW LEOPARD GUEST HOUSE (B, L, D)

DAY 12 ZHANGMU

Today, journey from the barren Tibetan Plateau toward the lush foothills of Nepal, descending more than 9,000 feet flanked by towering summits. In the border town of Zhangmu, settle into our hotel overlooking the Bhote Kosi river. CAI YUAN HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 13 BHAKTAPUR, NEPAL/KATHMANDU

Cross the Friendship Bridge from Tibet into Nepal, and continue to the medieval city of Bhaktapur where much of the movie *Little Buddha* was filmed. Discover ancient temples and palaces adorned with intricately carved wooden windows and latticework. Continue to our hotel in Kathmandu. DWARIKA'S HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 14 KATHMANDU

Spend today exploring the colorful capital city of Kathmandu. Visit the 2,500-year-old shrine at Swayambhunath. Delve into the bustle of Durbar Square and the Hanuman Dhoka palace complex. View the great Buddhist stupa of Bodhnath, the



largest such structure in Nepal. Tonight, celebrate our remarkable journey with a festive farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

DAYS 15 AND 16 KATHMANDU/U.S.

Depart Kathmandu and connect in Bangkok or Hong Kong for flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Sep. 21–Oct. 6 • Oct. 10–25
Oct. 31–Nov. 15

This departure is a photography expedition. See page 112 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$8,325

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,650. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from San Francisco to Beijing and return from Kathmandu begins at \$1,750, and between Beijing and Lhasa is \$475 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

Throughout this expedition, we will travel at high elevations. We spend nine nights at elevations ranging from 12,000 to 14,268 feet and travel as high as 17,200 feet. A considerable amount of time is spent traveling in four-wheel-drive vehicles over rough, dusty roads. Several optional hikes ascend and descend over uneven terrain. Participants should be physically fit. This expedition is not suitable for anyone who suffers from a respiratory, cardiac, or circulatory disorder or a disability that limits mobility. We will stay at first-class hotels in Beijing, Lhasa, and Kathmandu; and at basic (best available) hotels elsewhere.

Please note: Access to Everest Base Camp in Tibet is regulated by the Chinese government. We expect to operate this trip as planned, but will closely monitor events in the region and may need to alter the itinerary if access to Everest Base Camp becomes restricted.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Visit our website or call for details.

See our Tibet and Nepal Photography Expedition on page 112.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

INDIA WILDLIFE SAFARI new



DEEP IN INDIA'S WILDERNESS, the majestic tiger prowls in greater numbers than anywhere else in the world, and rare beasts like greater one-horned rhinoceroses and sloth bears coexist with countless species of birds. On safari with a National Geographic grantee in three national parks—Panna, Bandhavgarh, and Kaziranga—experience some of India's best wildlife viewing, and track the elusive Bengal tiger.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend two days in Bandhavgarh National Park, home to perhaps the greatest density of wild tigers in India.
- Visit Qutb Minar and the magnificent temples of Khajuraho, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Explore India's wild habitats with Krithi Karanth or Sandesh Kador, two of National Geographic's Emerging Explorers.
- Ride an elephant through the grasslands of Kaziranga, where most of the world's greater one-horned rhinoceroses roam.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Conservation biologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Krithi Karanth** received the Society's 10,000th research, conservation, and exploration grant to support her work in India's Western Ghats. She works on conservation issues such as human-wildlife conflict, land-use change, people-wildlife relationships, and styles of tourism that threaten India's elephants, leopards, and tigers. The daughter of a renowned tiger biologist and Indian conservationist, Krithi has accompanied field expeditions since she was just a year old, and spotted her first leopard at the age of three. She earned her Ph.D. from Duke and a master's degree from Yale.

KRITHI WILL ACCOMPANY THE JANUARY AND MARCH DEPARTURES. SANDESH KADUR WILL JOIN THE OTHER TWO DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS BIO.

ITINERARY | 15 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./DELHI, INDIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Delhi and transfer to our hotel upon arrival. The next day, discover the sights of New Delhi, India's capital city since 1911. See the colonnaded house of the Indian Parliament and the ornate presidential palace, Rashtrapati Bhavan, and pay a visit to the India Gate, a memorial to Indian soldiers killed in World War I. Step into centuries past at the World Heritage sites of Qutb Minar, an early 13th-century red sandstone minaret that rises 238 feet into the air, and Humayun's Tomb, an impressive example of early Mogul architecture. Stop in at the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, whose residents include striated babblers, white-tailed stonechats, and streaked weavers. RADISSON BLU PLAZA DELHI (B, L, D)

DAY 4 KHAJURAHO/PANNA

After breakfast, fly to Khajuraho to visit a stunning group of Hindu and Jain temples that date back a thousand years. Wander through this

World Heritage site to examine shrines covered in magnificent sculptures. Continue overland to Panna National Park, a wildlife reserve that links populations of wild animals in the Vindhya Range of Madhya Pradesh. PASHAN GARH (B, L, D)

DAY 5 PANNA

Embark on morning and afternoon game drives in the Panna wilderness for an introduction to India's native deer species, including the sambar, chital, and chousingha; and the nilgai, Asia's largest antelope. Search for elusive predators such as leopards and dholes (Indian wild dogs) and look for sloth bears perched on rocky escarpments. With luck, we may see our first tiger, as efforts to stabilize a small population of tigers in Panna are ongoing. Between drives, relax at our hilltop lodge overlooking a watering hole where animals come to drink. If water levels permit, take a boat ride on the Ken River to see several species of water birds or a large mugger crocodile basking on the river bank. (B, L, D)

DAYS 6, 7, AND 8 BANDHAVGARH

Travel to Bandhavgarh National Park, the former hunting preserve of the maharajas of Rewa, which

Above: Tigers laze and prance at a water hole in Bandhavgarh National Park.



Astride their elephants, visitors approach the prehistoric forms of a one-horned rhino and her calf in the misty grasslands of Kaziranga.

now boasts one of the highest concentrations of wild tigers in India. Spend two days on safari in the park, tracking more than 40 resident tigers and spotting other wildlife: black-faced Hanuman langurs; macaques; wild boar; and a variety of bird species, including Bonelli's eagles, malabar pied hornbills, and peregrine falcons. See the enormous reclining statue of Lord Vishnu known as Shesh Shaiya, which dates back to the tenth century. During our free time, set out from our lodge on guided nature walks or indulge in an optional spa treatment. In the evenings, take in a traditional



The wildlife of India has long inspired the Society's explorers, writers, and photographers. The cover of the December 1997 issue of *National Geographic* magazine

featured Sita, a tigress whose many descendants have helped repopulate Bandhavgarh. In August 2010, the magazine published a story on "India's Grassland Kingdom," Kaziranga National Park. This expedition was inspired by the work of two recent National Geographic Emerging Explorers, conservation biologist Krithi Karanth (see her bio at left) and wildlife photographer and filmmaker Sandesh Kadir, one of whom will join each departure.

dance performance or relax around the bonfire under the stars. **KINGS LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 9 AND 10 JABALPUR/KOLKATA

Take a scenic drive to Jabalpur and board a flight to Kolkata via Delhi. The following day, explore historic Kolkata, the capital of British India from 1772 to 1911 and one of the largest British trading centers in the world. Visit the Writers' Building, once the headquarters of the British East India Company, and step into St. John's Church, built in the 18th century. At the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity, stroll through halls where Mother Teresa lived and worked and visit her tomb. Stop by the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata's most iconic building, dedicated to Queen Victoria. **TAJ BENGAL (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAY 11 JORHAT/KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Fly to Jorhat in India's eastern State of Assam and continue overland to Kaziranga National Park. Check into our lodge, set among bamboo groves and fruit orchards, and get settled in private cottages built on stilts in the local tradition. **INFINITY RESORT KAZIRANGA (B, L, D)**

DAYS 12 AND 13 KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Stretching along the edge of the Brahmaputra River, Kaziranga National Park is a World Heritage site and one of the last unspoiled wildernesses in eastern India. The park and its environs have been designated a tiger reserve and a BirdLife International Important Bird Area. Explore the



varied landscapes by elephant and by 4x4 vehicle, venturing through fields of elephant grass, marshlands, and dense forests to find tigers, greater one-horned rhinoceroses, Asian elephants, water buffalo, and more than 300 species of domestic and migratory birds. Outside the park, experience everyday life in a nearby village, visit a rubber or tea plantation, and watch mahouts bathe their elephants. If you choose, take a boat ride on the Brahmaputra River to search for Ganges river dolphins. Celebrate our last evening with a festive farewell dinner and a traditional dance performance. **(B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 14 AND 15 KAZIRANGA/KOLKATA/U.S.

After a final morning game drive, fly from Jorhat to Kolkata and check into day rooms. Enjoy time to relax before transferring to the airport for overnight flights home. **SWISSÔTEL KOLKATA (B, L, D)**

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Oct. 30–Nov. 13

2015: Jan. 12–26 • Feb. 23–Mar. 9 • Mar. 9–23

Expedition Cost:

\$8,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,790. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Delhi and return from Kolkata is \$1,210, and flights within India are \$855 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. Visit our website or call for details.

RAIL JOURNEY THROUGH INDIA



STEP ABOARD THE *PALACE ON WHEELS*

and set off on an unforgettable rail journey to the fabled cities of Rajasthan. Venture into majestic forts and palaces, and immerse yourself in the colors and rhythms of India's captivating culture. Visit the immense Amber Fort high above Jaipur, and watch the sunset light up the Taj Mahal. Experience one of India's celebrated festivals or fairs on each departure.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel aboard the *Palace on Wheels*, a train designed in the style of a bygone era that evokes the splendor of the maharajas.
- Explore six UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Fatehpur Sikri and the incomparable Taj Mahal.
- Search for tigers in Ranthambhore National Park and for rare birds and other wildlife in Keoladeo Ghana National Park.
- Take a sunset camel safari among the evocative dunes of the Thar Desert.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Jan Nijman is Professor Emeritus of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Miami. A former member of National Geographic's Committee for

Research and Exploration, Jan has spent more than a decade researching socioeconomic and cultural change in India. The National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation have supported his work, and his publications have appeared in a wide range of international journals. Jan has received the University of Miami's Excellence in Teaching Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

JAN WILL ACCOMPANY THE MARCH 2014 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./DELHI, INDIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Delhi and check into our hotel upon arrival. **TAJ MAHAL HOTEL**

DAY 3 DELHI

Set out on a tour of New Delhi, the capital established by the British in 1911. Then delve into Old Delhi, a patchwork of eight different cities built by a succession of rulers and the capital of Muslim India between the 13th and 19th centuries. Explore Humayun's Tomb, a milestone in the history of Mughal architecture, and the soaring minaret of Qutb Minar. This evening gather for a special welcome reception and dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 JAIPUR

Travel from Delhi to Jaipur in Rajasthan*. Known as the "Pink City" for its rose-colored buildings, Jaipur is protected by high fortifications and multiple gates. Stroll through a local bazaar before visiting Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds, a stunning five-

story sandstone building with delicate latticework and honeycombed windows. **JAI MAHAL PALACE** (B, L, D)

DAY 5 JAIPUR

Begin the day with a guided tour of the City Palace, a vast complex with a museum housing rare manuscripts, paintings, and an armory. Visit the 18th-century royal observatory known as the Jantar Mantar, and examine a variety of precise astronomical tools. In the afternoon, explore the hilltop Amber Fort, a 16th- and 17th-century complex. Explore its exquisite and well-preserved palaces, temples, gardens, and pavilions. This evening, settle into your cabin on board the *Palace on Wheels*. **PALACE ON WHEELS** (B, L, D)

DAY 6 RANTHAMBHORE NATIONAL PARK/CHITTAURGARH

Set out on a morning game drive in Ranthambhore National Park in search of elusive tigers, as well as hyenas, jackals, and foxes. After lunch back on the train, arrive in the city of Chittaurgarh. Trace a turbulent history of siege, valor, and sacrifice at Chittaurgarh Fort, one of the largest forts in India. (B, L, D)

Above: Elephants idle among visitors in the palace courtyard of Jaipur's Amber Fort.



Balancing her water jug, a woman and her camel are mirrored before the mystical backdrop of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 7 UDAIPUR

Known as the City of Lakes, Udaipur is most celebrated for the fairy-tale marble palaces that appear to rise from the waters of Lake Pichola. Venture into a spectacular labyrinth of courtyards within the City Palace, a soaring creation of marble and granite perched on the lake's edge. This palace complex, the largest in Rajasthan, blends medieval, European, and Chinese architecture and is richly decorated with inlaid mirror-work, mosaics, and frescoes. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 JAISALMER

Today the train carries us into the heart of the Thar Desert to magical Jaisalmer, founded by Rawal Jaisal in A.D. 1156. Rising above the city, the imposing turrets and bastions of the golden sandstone fort conceal a lively town within. Explore this magnificent fort and discover the *havelis*, once the mansions of wealthy merchants, decorated with elaborate facades. Later, ride a



The Palace on Wheels

camel across the sand dunes of Sam and stop for a traditional tea in the desert. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 JODHPUR

Jodhpur's blue-hued old city lies at the foot of massive Mehrangarh Fort, perched on a rocky outcrop some 120 meters high. Visit the 15th-century fort and learn about its colorful history. Today is Holi, the Hindu festival of color, which welcomes spring and celebrates the triumph of good over evil with song, feasts, bonfires, and the "play of colors," in which celebrants douse each other in radiant pigments.** Get into the spirit and join in the festivities if you wish. We'll enjoy lunch in Jodhpur before returning to the *Palace on Wheels* for the final leg of our rail journey. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 KEOLADEO GHANA NATIONAL PARK/AGRA

Disembark the train in Bharatpur after an early breakfast and head into the wetlands of Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a renowned bird sanctuary. Search for egrets, flamingos, and many other bird species and wildlife. Then stop at a hotel near the park for a cooking demonstration and lunch. Take a guided walk around Bharatpur village before heading to Fatehpur Sikri, the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1569 to 1585, where elegant carved sandstone palaces remain incredibly well preserved. Continue to Agra this evening. ITC MUGHAL, AGRA (B, L, D)

DAY 11 AGRA

Rise early this morning to see the Taj Mahal's marble sparkle in the dawn light. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, the Taj Mahal is often described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. After lunch, explore Agra Fort's courtyards, mosques, and private chambers, which bring to life the story of the Mughal Empire. Pay a visit to a marble inlay workshop to see how the intricate stonework of the Taj Mahal was created. This evening, visit the iconic Taj Mahal at sunset before gathering for a festive farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

ABOUT THE PALACE ON WHEELS

The *Palace on Wheels* (pictured left) is a train built in the royal style of the maharajas. The train has 14 fully air-conditioned deluxe saloons, each with four twin-bedded cabins, a mini-pantry, and lounge. Each cabin has en suite bathrooms with a toilet, sink, and shower. Two restaurant cars serve Continental, Indian, Rajasthani, and Chinese cuisine, and the cozy bar and lounge offer great places to wind down at the end of the day. National Geographic has reserved 15 cabins on each of these departures.



DAYS 12 AND 13 AGRA/DELHI/U.S.

After breakfast, those who are interested can make a special visit to a local orphanage. Then drive to Delhi and relax in day rooms at the Taj Mahal Hotel. Later, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight, arriving home the next day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Mar. 9–21** • Oct. 19–31 • Oct. 26–Nov. 7*
Dec. 21, 2014–Jan. 2, 2015

2015: Jan. 25–Feb. 6 📷 • Feb. 8–20 • Mar. 1–13*

*In order to allow time for attending festivals, we will fly instead of drive from Delhi to Jaipur on the October 26, 2014 and March 2015 departures.

**The itinerary shown describes the March 9, 2014 departure, which includes the Holi festival. Festivals or celebrations on other departures include the Diwali festival on the October 19, 2014 departure; the Pushkar Camel Fair on the October 26, 2014 departure; the Desert Festival in January 2015; the Mahashivaratri festival in February 2015; and the Holi and Elephant festivals on the March 2015 departure. On the December 2014 departure, we spend Christmas in Jaipur and New Year's Eve visiting the Taj Mahal. Visit our website for detailed itineraries.

📷 This departure is a photography expedition. See page 113 for details.

Expedition Cost:

Mar. 2014

\$10,595

Oct. 2014–Mar. 2015

\$10,995

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,790 for the Mar. 2014 departure and \$2,920 for the Oct. 2014–Mar. 2015 departures. On the Dec. departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$1,000 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Delhi begins at \$1,385. For the Oct. 26, 2014 and Mar. 2015 departures, the additional flight from Delhi to Jaipur begins at \$265 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Khajuraho and Varanasi. Visit our website or call for details.

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA: ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail the Mekong River on a seven-night cruise aboard the elegant riverboat *Jahan*.
- Spend two full days immersed in the splendor of Angkor's temples and palaces.
- Delve into the vibrant cities of Phnom Penh and Saigon, and experience rural life on visits to floating homes, farms, and traditional villages.
- Witness the revitalization of Cambodian arts at a dance performance and during a visit to a traditional arts school.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Depart for Siem Reap and, upon arrival, settle into our riverside hotel. LA RÉSIDENCE D'ANGKOR

DAYS 3 AND 4 ANGKOR

Rise early to watch the sunrise at Angkor Wat, a 12th-century Khmer temple. Explore Ta Prohm and Banteay Srei, and pay a visit to Les Artisans d'Angkor, a traditional arts school. Ride a *tuk-tuk*, or motorized rickshaw, to the walled city of Angkor Thom to see the Bayon Temple and the Terrace of the Elephants. (B, L, D; B, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 KAMPONG CHAM

Travel to the Mekong River, stopping for a picnic in Kampong Cham. Embark the *Jahan* and catch the sunset on deck before a welcome dinner. The next

Above: Draped in bright saffron robes, two monks gaze at Cambodia's Angkor Wat.

day, see an eighth-century temple at Wat Hanchey and meet the friendly residents of Angkor Ban on a village stroll. R.V. *JAHAN* (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 KAMPONG CHHNANG/KAMPONG TRALACH

Anchor at Kampong Chhnang and visit a village known for traditional pottery. Glimpse a unique way of life in the floating villages of Tonle Sap, and in Kampong Tralach, ride oxcarts to an ancient Buddhist temple. (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 PHNOM PENH/THE MEKONG

During a full day in Phnom Penh, ride a *cyclo* (bicycle taxi) to the Royal Palace and its Silver Pagoda. Browse Khmer sculpture at the National Museum, and learn about the Khmer Rouge at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Tonight, witness an *apsara* dance performance. Then enjoy a relaxing day on the river, attending talks by our expert and taking a cooking class with our chef. Cross into Vietnam in the afternoon. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 CHAU DOC, VIETNAM/CAI BE

Meander through the colorful markets of Chau Doc and Cai Be and visit nearby floating villages and river communities to learn about local enterprises, from fish farming to candy making. Tonight, gather for a gala dinner aboard the *Jahan*. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12, 13, AND 14 MYTHO/SAIGON/U.S.

Disembark in My Tho and visit the Vinh Trang Pagoda before traveling to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). Meet with a local expert and explore the city's historic sites, including Reunification Palace, seat of the South Vietnamese government during the Vietnam War. If you wish, visit the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi Tunnels, or explore on your own. Tonight, transfer to the airport for your return flight, arriving home the next morning. PARK HYATT SAIGON (B, L, D; B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jan. 6–19 • Jan. 14–27* • Jan. 20–Feb. 2
Feb. 25–Mar. 10* • Mar. 3–16

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1 <i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	\$9,870
Category 2 <i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	\$10,590
Category 3 <i>Located on the Captain's Deck</i>	\$12,350
Category 4 <i>Located on the Captain's Deck</i>	\$14,800

See R.V. *Jahan* description, photo, and deck plan on page 135. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin in Category 1, add \$4,920. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Los Angeles to Siem Reap and return from Saigon is \$1,600 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Venture further into Vietnam on an eight-day extension to Hoi An, Hue, Hanoi, and Halong Bay. Visit our website or call for details.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, **Paula Swart** will join the January 6 departure. Paula is an expert on Asian culture and history, and has been a museum curator for more than

20 years. She holds degrees in archaeology, Asian art history, and Chinese history. Paula speaks five languages, including Mandarin, and has published numerous books and articles on the art and architecture of Asian cultures.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

MONGOLIA: LAND OF THE NOMAD



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience Naadam, Mongolia's most celebrated festival, and see wrestling, archery, and horse-racing competitions.
- Go horseback riding and spot wildlife in the wetlands of the Gün-Galuut Nature Reserve.
- Attend a performance of traditional Mongolian throat singing, and visit with nomads in their traditional ger camps.
- Explore the site of one of the world's most prolific dinosaur fossil quarries at the Flaming Cliffs.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Ulaanbaatar. Spend the next morning at the Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's largest functioning Buddhist monastery, and see the adjoining Megjid Janraisig and Kalachakra Temples. Later, visit the National History Museum, and go on a behind-the-scenes tour of its paleontology lab. Gather tonight for a welcome dinner. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 GÜN-GALUUT NATURE RESERVE

Meet with a U.S. Embassy official to learn about Mongolia's current political and economic climate. Then travel to Gün-Galuut, a nature reserve where the steppe converges with wetlands, and

Above: A horseman in traditional dress drives his herd on the expansive grasslands of Mongolia.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Writer, photographer, and biologist **Jeremy Schmidt** has been traveling to Mongolia since 1993. He has lived with and written about Mongolia's eagle hunters, shamans, steppe nomads, and city folk. In 2002, with help from the National Geographic Conservation Trust, he co-founded Conservation Ink, a nonprofit publisher that supports Mongolia's protected areas.

JEREMY WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE 30 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

settle into a traditional ger—a round, felt-lined tent. Explore the area on hikes or on horseback, and visit a nomadic family. GER CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 6 ULAANBAATAR

Return to Ulaanbaatar and see one of the world's best collections of Buddhist art and artifacts at the Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL (B, L)

DAYS 7-10 THE GOBI

Fly to the mystical Gobi and discover the wildlife and landscapes of the desert over the next four days. Explore Gegeet Valley, the habitat of the elusive snow leopard, and Khongoryn Els, a 60-mile stretch of soaring sand dunes. Encounter the uncanny "Singing Sands," ride a Bactrian camel, and visit with a camel-herding family. On a hike in the Yolyn Am chasm, look for ibex, gazelles, and vultures. Travel to Tugrighi Shiree, where paleontologists discovered the famous "Fighting Dinosaurs" fossil, and see the Flaming Cliffs, where red sandstone harbors a treasure trove of dinosaur fossils and eggs. Spend three nights at the award-winning Three Camel Lodge. GER CAMP; THREE CAMEL LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11, 12, AND 13 ULAANBAATAR/NAADAM FESTIVAL/U.S.

Fly to Ulaanbaatar, and visit the Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan followed by a performance of traditional dance and *khoomi*, or throat singing. The next day, attend the opening ceremony of Naadam, Mongolia's annual festival of traditional sports, at the National Stadium. Witness archery and wrestling contests, and see a horse race outside the city. After breakfast the following morning, transfer to the airport for your flight home. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL (B, L; B, L, D; B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 13-26 • Jun. 30-Jul. 12
Jul. 5-17 • Jul. 25-Aug. 7

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 111 for details and special pricing.

The Naadam festival is featured on different days depending on departure date. Visit our website for details.

Expedition Cost:

\$5,895

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,200. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip airfare between San Francisco and Ulaanbaatar begins at \$2,055, and between Ulaanbaatar and Dalanzadgad is \$450 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

Travel to Mongolia requires flexibility and a sense of adventure. Roads can be rough, and disruptions to the country's infrastructure can result in changes to our itinerary. Travelers must be in good health and physically fit. The gers in Gün Galuut and the Gobi are basic and comfortable with a separate bathhouse. Deluxe gers at Three Camel Lodge include a private toilet and sink.

Optional Extension:

Add a five-day post-trip extension to Hövsgöl Lake. Visit our website or call for details.

TREASURES OF MYANMAR

new



GOLD-SMOTHERED STUPAS AND SOARING BUDDHA STATUES, serene waterways lined with floating gardens, unique handi-crafts and hill tribes: these are just a few of Myanmar's little-known treasures. Ruled under a military junta until a civilian government was installed in 2011, Myanmar, or Burma, is a profoundly Buddhist country whose gentle people have retained many of their ancient traditions. Immerse yourself in the enchanting culture of Myanmar from the glorious temples of Yangon and Mandalay to the timeless stilt villages of Inle Lake.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride a horse-cart past hundreds of stupas and temples of all sizes on the Bagan plain.
- Cruise the Irrawaddy in a teak riverboat, stopping in an artisan village along the way.
- Take part in a candle-lighting ceremony at Yangon's glittering Shwedagon Pagoda.
- Glide past fishing skiffs and abundant gardens on a longboat outing on Inle Lake.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



An acclaimed lecturer on the cultural history of non-Western civilizations, **Jack Daulton** has been an expert on trips to more than 50 countries. His academic

work has included extensive study of the art and architecture of Asia and Africa, as well as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Jack is also a practicing attorney with a focus on international law relating to the preservation and conservation of the world's cultural heritage. In a widely reported 1995 federal case, he recovered a 1,000-year-old sculpture that had been stolen from a temple in Myanmar.

JACK WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER 2014 AND BOTH FEBRUARY 2015 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./MANDALAY, MYANMAR

Depart the U.S., cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 3. Transfer to our hotel and meet for a welcome dinner tonight. RUPAR MANDALAR RESORT (D)

DAY 4 MANDALAY

Set off on an all-day cruise on the Irrawaddy River, stopping first in Sagaing, where myriad pagodas gleam white and gold on the hillside. Take in the view from the Soon U Ponya Shin Pagoda, and observe daily life at a convent and a community school. Continue upriver to Inwa and hop into horse-carts to visit Nan Myint Tower, Menu Ok-kyaung Monastery, and the teak Bagaya Monastery. Enjoy lunch on board as we sail to Mingun, home to a massive, unfinished pagoda. Watch the sunset on the river on our return to Mandalay. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 MANDALAY

Rise early to witness the morning face-washing ceremony of the Mahamuni Buddha, the most revered

Buddha image in Mandalay. Admire the carvings of the Shwenandaw Monastery and see the 729 chiseled marble slabs of Kuthodaw Pagoda. Explore the city wall and its moat and then stop in at a gold-leaf workshop. After lunch, visit the home of a local artist to see his collection of old paintings and tapestries. In the 18th-century capital of Amarapura, take a sunset walk across U Bein Bridge, a teak structure that spans nearly 4,000 feet, or paddle a canoe on Taungthaman Lake below. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 MANDALAY/BAGAN

Board a teak riverboat for a leisurely float downstream to Bagan. Listen to talks by our experts and watch a local artist demonstrate painting with a blade. Visit the riverside village of Yandabo, known for its pottery, and arrive in Bagan this evening. THE HOTEL AT THARABAR GATE (B, L, D)

DAY 7 BAGAN

During the 11th and 12th centuries, more than 10,000 temples, stupas, and monasteries were built on the Bagan plain. Today, the remains of more than 2,200 of these structures—from tiny stupas to towering temples—still dot the landscape. Examine 13th-century murals at

Above: Legs hooked around their poles, fishermen propel their slender skiffs on the waters of Inle Lake.

“The once isolated nation at the culturally rich crossroads of India and China is a land that imbues even the most jaded traveler with a sense of wonder.”

Ceil Miller Bouchet on Myanmar, “Best of the World,”
National Geographic Traveler, December 2012/January 2013



The brick and sandstone pinnacles of dozens of centuries-old temples poke out from the Bagan plain.

Gubyaukgyi Temple, and stop in at a lacquerware workshop to watch artisans ply their craft. Continue to Ananda Temple, home to four great, gilded Buddha statues, and meet with an archaeologist at the site. Next, visit Htilominlo Temple and ride a horse-cart across the Bagan plain to Myaukguni Temple at sunset. During a special dinner under the stars, enjoy temple views and a traditional dance performance lit by hundreds of oil lamps. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 BAGAN

Float high over Bagan on an optional sunrise hot air balloon ride. After breakfast, attend a novice initiation ceremony for children preparing to become monks. Enjoy a talk on Theravada Buddhism by a local monk and visit a village school. Later, head into the vibrant Nyaung U market and see the gold-plated Shwezigon Pagoda, Bagan's greatest reliquary. Learn how local palm wine is made at a toddy palm farm, then return to Bagan via Minanthu village and watch the sun set over its temples. (B, L)

DAY 9 HEHO/INLE LAKE

Fly to Heho and travel overland to Inle Lake, visiting Shweyanpyay Monastery and Nyaungshwe village along the way. Enjoy an afternoon on the lake, stopping at floating villages and pagodas

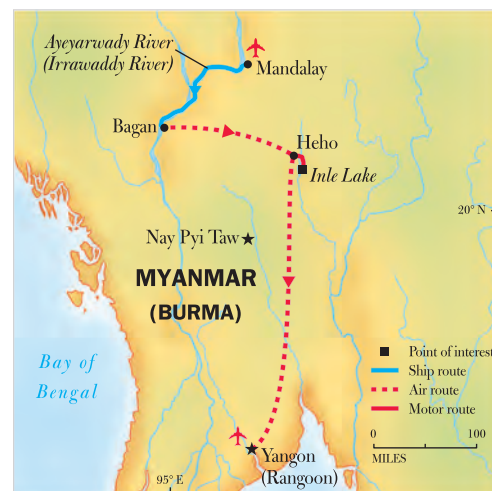
on shore, and gliding past fishermen poling their skiffs with one leg. INLE PRINCESS RESORT OR VILLA INLE RESORT & SPA (B, L, D)

DAY 10 INLE LAKE

Spend the day exploring the lake, from lush floating gardens to vibrant lakeside markets. At the Phaung Daw U Pagoda, see five Buddha images so smothered in gold leaf that they have lost all trace of their original forms. Take a Shan cooking class or watch artisans at work at a silk weaving workshop. After lunch in a floating house, wander among hundreds of Shan-style stupas in Inn Dein, and visit Ngaphechaung Monastery, perched over the water on stilts and teak planks. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 YANGON

Fly to Yangon this morning and set out to discover Myanmar's former capital. See a colossal reclining Buddha that stretches more than 200 feet at Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, and examine royal artifacts at the National Museum. Encounter the glittering stupas of Shwedagon Pagoda, a soaring, gilded temple tipped with more than 4,500 diamonds. Participate in a lamp-lighting ceremony at the temple and enjoy time to stroll the grounds alongside the pilgrims and families that flock here. THE STRAND (B, L, D)



DAYS 12 AND 13 YANGON/U.S.

Begin the day at Botataung Pagoda, an unusual hollow stupa filled with hundreds of Buddha statues. Then venture into the center of old Rangoon, a fascinating time capsule where British colonial buildings stand alongside Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Hindu sites. Stroll through Mahabandula Park and browse local handicrafts at the Bogyoke Aung San Market. Then meet with monks on a visit to the Kalaywa Tawkyayung Monastic Education Centre. Toast our journey at a festive farewell dinner tonight. The next day, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Oct. 15–27 • Nov. 11–23 • Dec. 2–14

2015: Jan. 28–Feb. 9 • Feb. 10–22
 Feb. 23–Mar. 7

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 113 for details.

Expedition Cost:

\$7,295

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,000. The optional hot air balloon excursion on Day 8 is \$350 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Los Angeles to Mandalay and return from Yangon begins at \$1,500, and flights within Myanmar are \$400 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

This trip includes numerous village and temple visits that require walking over uneven terrain, boarding local boats, and climbing stairs in often hot and humid conditions. We will frequently be required to remove socks and shoes to enter religious sites. Travelers should be in good health and physically fit.

See our Myanmar Photography Expedition on page 113.

WILD ENCOUNTERS FROM BORNEO TO BALI



BOARD THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ORION, the newest ship in our fleet, and set out from Singapore to the remote archipelagos of the South China Sea. Snorkel or dive amid a mind-boggling array of marine species, and encounter the endangered orangutans and rich wild-life of Borneo, tracing the island's coast from the protected forests of Sarawak to Tanjung Puting National Park.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet National Geographic grantee **Biruté Galdikas** at **Camp Leakey**, an orangutan research center she established in Borneo.
- Glide into the jungles of **Tanjung Puting National Park** on local boats, and interact with orangutans at rehabilitation centers.
- Discover an incredible spectrum of wildlife in Borneo's **Bako National Park**, home to seven different ecosystems.
- Snorkel and swim in the coral reefs off pristine, uninhabited isles in the **Natuna** and **Anambas** archipelagos.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Award-winning photojournalist **Brian Skerry** will accompany our diverse team of natural-ists and other experts on both departures. Brian has photographed marine wildlife

and underwater environments for *National Geographic* magazine since 1998, documenting everything from tropical coral reefs to seamounts to life under the polar ice. Among numerous assignments in the Pacific Islands, he shot the July 2008 article "An Uneasy Eden," on fragile reef systems. National Geographic Books released his latest book, *Ocean Soul*, in November 2011. Brian is a regular guest on programs such as NBC's *Today*, CBS's *Sunday Morning*, and ABC's *Good Morning America*.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./SINGAPORE

Depart for Singapore, cross the international date line, and board the *National Geographic Orion* upon arrival the following afternoon. Get acquainted with our ship and its amenities as we set sail on the South China Sea. **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION (D)**

DAY 4 ANAMBAS ARCHIPELAGO

Our first stop is the Anambas archipelago, a chain of some 238 islands that are largely uninhabited. Snorkel in the unspoiled reefs surrounding Pulau Bawah or Pulau Lintang, and end the day with a beach barbecue. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO

Scattered in the South China Sea between Borneo and the Malaysian peninsula, the 272 islands of the Natuna archipelago are graced with white-sand beaches and volcanic peaks and fringed with coral reefs. Depending on the weather, we will likely stop



The proboscis monkey, endemic to Borneo, uses its bulky nose to attract mates.

to snorkel at either Pulau Senua or Pulau Tiga, both pristine and uninhabited, and later enjoy a festive welcome ceremony in one of the fishing villages that dot the nearby islands. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 BAKO NATIONAL PARK, MALAYSIAN BORNEO

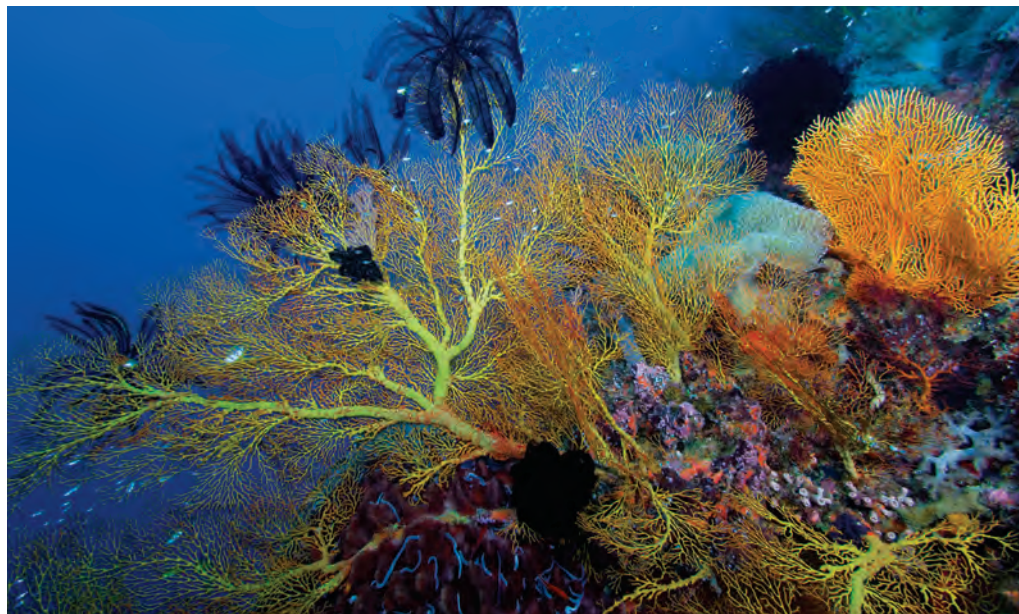
Situated on the northern coast of Malaysian Borneo, Bako National Park is characterized by thick rain forests that give way to secluded

Above: Known in Malay as "people of the forest," Borneo's orangutans have astonishingly human-like expressions and gestures.

“Like fat-bellied acrobats, [the orangutans] seem to traverse the canopy effortlessly,

leaving researchers such as me to crash through the undergrowth trying to keep a constant eye on them.”

Cheryl Knott, “Orangutans in the Wild,”
National Geographic magazine, August 1998



Brilliant coral fans bring color to the South China Sea.

beaches and a coastline carved with sea arches and colorful sea stacks. The park harbors seven distinct ecosystems and most of the plant species found in Borneo. Enjoy a full day to explore on a variety of walks and hikes, go birding, and track rare primates like the proboscis monkey. (B, L, D)

DAYS 7, 8, AND 9 KUCHING, SARAWAK/AT SEA

Continue to Kuching, the capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Here, visit the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, discuss ongoing research on orangutan behavior, and hear about a successful program that has reintroduced more than a thousand endangered animals into the wild.



The new National Geographic Orion

During free time this afternoon, discover the cultural treasures of Kuching. Spend the next two days at sea, listening to talks by our experts and enjoying the ship as we trace the western coast of Kalimantan, or Indonesian Borneo. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, INDONESIAN BORNEO

Set on a peninsula jutting out from the southern edge of the island, Tanjung Puting National Park is a trove of rare species and diverse habitats. While the park is home to some 220 bird species and numerous monkey species, its most famous residents are endangered orangutans. Board local boats for a full-day excursion into the forest, gliding on narrow channels on the lookout for hornbills, crocodiles, and perhaps proboscis monkeys.

Our destination is Camp Leakey, a research station established in 1971 by primatologist Biruté Galdikas, a protégé of legendary paleontologist Louis Leakey and the founder of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI). A many-time National Geographic grantee, Dr. Galdikas joins us to discuss her efforts to save the orangutan from extinction through rehabilitation and habitat preservation.



Our boats bring us to feeding stations throughout the forest, where we can observe these gentle creatures at close range. The following day, pay a visit to OFI's wildlife rehabilitation center to learn how captive and orphaned orangutans are rescued and rehabilitated. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 AT SEA/DENPASAR, BALI/U.S.

Cross the Java Sea to the lovely Indonesian island of Bali. Disembark the following morning and transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Sep. 16–28 Sep. 26–Oct. 8*

*This departure follows the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$8,680
Located on Main Deck with oval windows	
Category 2	\$10,080
Located on Main Deck with large oval window	
Category 3	\$11,970
Located on Upper Deck—Suite with window	
Category 4	\$13,110
Located on Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window	
Category 5	\$15,650
Located on Bridge Deck—Suite with balcony	
Category 6	\$18,180
Located on Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with balcony	

See National Geographic Orion description and deck plan on page 131. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$4,310 in Category 1 and \$5,980 in Category 3. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Los Angeles to Singapore and return from Bali is \$1,800 (subject to change).

ON SAFARI: TANZANIA'S GREAT MIGRATION



GO IN SEARCH OF THE THUNDERING

HERDS of the legendary wildebeest migration on a wildlife safari in Tanzania. Experience the power of the migration up close in the vast savannas of northern or southern Serengeti, depending on the season (see box at right). Take in extraordinary vistas of the Great Rift Valley, and descend into the Ngorongoro Crater to spot lions, cheetahs, elephants, and much more.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a private tour of Olduvai Gorge, where *Homo habilis* was discovered on a National Geographic-sponsored expedition.
- Seek out the great wildebeest migration.
- Spot spectacular wildlife in the Ngorongoro Crater, a unique habitat sheltering almost 25,000 animals.
- Join a Maasai chief on a private visit to his village, witness a traditional ceremony, and learn firsthand about Maasai culture.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Zoologist **Amy Dickman** has worked in Africa for more than 13 years. She spent six years at the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, conducted

research on human-carnivore conflict in Tanzania, and holds the Kaplan Senior Research Fellowship in Wild Cat Conservation at Oxford University. National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative is supporting Amy's current project, which focuses on large carnivore ecology in Tanzania's Ruaha landscape and strives to minimize human-carnivore conflict on village land adjacent to Ruaha National Park.

AMY WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including investigations into early human origins in the Laetoli area of Tanzania.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport, and arrive the following evening. ARUSHA COFFEE LODGE

DAY 3 LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

Drive to Lake Manyara National Park, famous for its elephants, hippos, giraffes, flamingos, and tree-climbing lions. Set out to discover East Africa's legendary wildlife amid the stunning Rift Valley landscape on our first safari. PLANTATION LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 4 LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

On a morning game drive, observe the wildlife that congregates on the shores of Lake Manyara. Hike through a coffee plantation this afternoon. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 NGORONGORO CRATER

After breakfast, travel to the Ngorongoro Highlands, where a nearby Maasai community

welcomes us into their village on a special visit. Far from the tourist circuit, enjoy a rare opportunity to view traditional singing and dancing, witness an initiation ritual, and learn about this fascinating culture from the village chief and his wives. After lunch, descend 2,000 feet to the base of the Ngorongoro Crater, where volcanic slopes shelter almost 25,000 animals. Observe the interactions of predator and prey; spot colorful birdlife from marabou storks to crowned cranes; and track elephants, rare black rhinos, cheetahs, and more. NGORONGORO SOPA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 6 NGORONGORO CRATER

Return to the crater floor for breakfast and a morning safari. Enjoy an afternoon to relax and watch the sun set over the crater from the lodge. Tonight, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Louise Leakey or Dr. Fidelis Masao, co-director of the Olduvai Landscape Paleoarchaeology Project, joins us for dinner and a discussion about the groundbreaking paleontological finds in the region. (B, L, D)

Above: The dark forms of migrating wildebeests speckle the savanna as far as the eye can see.



A lion positions himself to protect the next generation.

MIGRATION SEASONS IN THE SERENGETI

In order to provide travelers with the best opportunity to witness the wildebeest migration, the Serengeti portion of the itinerary differs by season. The itinerary shown describes the July through October departures, when the wildebeests are in the northern Serengeti. On the December through March departures, when the migration moves south, we'll set out for the southeastern border of the Serengeti on Day 7. During our three-night stay at Lake Masek Tented Camp, we will go on morning and afternoon game drives, and take an off-track safari in the Ndutu area. See our website for details.

DAY 7 OLDUVAI GORGE/SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Drive to the Olduvai Gorge where, on a National Geographic-sponsored expedition in 1960, Louis and Mary Leakey discovered *Homo habilis*, one of the earliest members of the human genus. On a private tour of the site, accompany Louise Leakey and learn about the family's legacy and ongoing work, or accompany Dr. Masao on a walk through the area where much of his life's research has been conducted. This afternoon, drive to our lodge in the central Serengeti, looking for lions,

giraffes, and leopards along the way. SERENGETI SOPA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Rise early for a morning game drive before flying to the northern Serengeti, and with luck, witness the dramatic river crossings of the wildebeest migration. Great herds of wildebeests and zebras eye predators warily as crocodile snouts break the surface of the Mara River. Stay in a luxury tented camp, and on morning and afternoon game drives, take in the region's spectacular array of



A beacon of dazzling red, a Maasai tribesman strolls through the grasslands.



wildlife. On our last evening, gather for a candlelit farewell dinner in the bush. SAYARI CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 SERENGETI/ARUSHA/U.S.

After a final early morning safari, fly back to Arusha. Relax at our hotel before connecting with your evening flight home, arriving the next day. KIA LODGE (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jul. 12–22 • Jul. 26–Aug. 5 • Aug. 2–12
Sep. 6–16 • Oct. 4–14
Dec. 27, 2014–Jan. 6, 2015*

2015: Jan. 24–Feb. 3* • Feb. 14–24* • Mar. 7–17*

*The December 2014 through March 2015 departures follow a slightly modified itinerary to provide travelers with the best opportunity to witness the wildebeest migration. See box at left.

Expedition Cost:

2014	\$8,495
2015	\$8,795

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,500 in 2014 and \$2,600 in 2015. On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$500 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Arusha begins at \$1,450 (subject to change). Flights within Tanzania range from \$350 to \$650, depending on the departure date.

Optional Extensions:

Add a six-day post-trip extension to track gorillas in Rwanda, a four-day post-trip extension to the spice island of Zanzibar, or a four-day post-trip extension on safari in Kenya. See our website or call for details.

See our Tanzania Family Adventure on page 115.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SAFARI BY PRIVATE AIR



SOAR OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA'S SPLENDID LANDSCAPES on an unforgettable journey by private air. Experience some of the world's best wildlife viewing on safari in private reserves away from the crowds. Choose from a variety of activities, from optional flight-seeing at Victoria Falls to canoe safaris and bush walks; and stay at some of southern Africa's top safari camps.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take close-ups of wildlife from a hide with a professional photographer, or go mountain biking along elephant trails.
- Examine ancient rock art with an archaeologist and see pottery shards and trading beads that date back thousands of years.
- Set out on a wildlife cruise in Botswana's Chobe National Park and watch elephants "snorkeling" in the river.
- Sip sundowners on the classic steam train *Royal Livingstone Express* as it travels through Mosi-o-Tunya National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Conservationist **Steve Boyes**, named a 2013 National Geographic Emerging Explorer, has dedicated his life to preserving Africa's wilderness areas and the

species that depend upon them. A native of South Africa, Steve spent more than five years in the Okavango Delta while doing fieldwork for his doctorate in zoology. He currently runs the Cape Parrot Project with support from the Society's Conservation Trust. His work takes him all over Africa, studying wildlife rehabilitation and biodiversity, fighting the wild-caught bird trade, and planting thousands of trees in forest restoration projects.

STEVE WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY, SEPTEMBER, AND DECEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's Big Cat Initiative, which supports field research, conservation projects, and education programs to halt the decline of lions, cheetahs, and other big cats.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA/MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Depart on an overnight flight to Johannesburg. Board our aircraft for a scenic flight to MalaMala Game Reserve, a private reserve in Greater Kruger National Park. The distinctive habitat of the Lowveld region is full of big game, including lions, leopards, and white rhinos. Settle into our luxury safari lodge, situated on the leafy banks of the Sand River, and take your first game drive before our welcome dinner tonight.

MALAMALA MAIN CAMP (D)

DAY 3 MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Set off on an early morning safari in open vehicles and observe wildlife at one of its most active times with naturalist guides. Enjoy time to relax and take advantage of the camp's amenities before lunch. During our late afternoon game drive, stop for sundowners in the bush. Continue exploring as night falls, searching for nocturnal



A bright carmine bee-eater stands in stark contrast to the vibrant stripes of its perch.

predators on the prowl. Gather for dinner around a large campfire in a reed-enclosed *boma*. (B, L, D)

DAYS 4, 5, AND 6 MASHATU GAME RESERVE, BOTSWANA

Our private aircraft flies us directly to Mashatu Game Reserve, an enormous private reserve located in the remote eastern corner of Botswana that comprises a diverse wilderness of savanna, riverine forests, marshlands, open plains, and sandstone outcrops. Take morning and evening game

Above: A vigilant leopard and her cub survey the landscape.

“This trip was beyond anything I could have imagined...” I was especially happy with the educational emphasis of the trip—that our leaders wanted us to learn, understand, and appreciate where we were and how each place we visited had a place in the world environmentally, socially, culturally, and historically. **”**

Meegan M., traveler



With the helping hand of an assistant, a photographer captures the magnificence of Victoria Falls.

drives accompanied by expert guides, and choose two of the following activities: go on a bush walk, join a photographer in a hide to capture close-ups of wildlife, take a game drive, or mountain bike along elephant trails. Visit the Motloutse Ruins, a

significant archaeological site, in the company of South African archaeologist Grant Hall. **MASHATU MAIN CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 7 AND 8 MOREMI GAME RESERVE, OKAVANGO DELTA

Our next flight takes us soaring over the magnificent wetlands of the Okavango Delta to a tented camp in Moremi Game Reserve. Spend two days discovering this untamed habitat by land and water. Choose to explore by open safari vehicle or by traditional *mokoro* canoes, and take a trip to Gadikwe Island by flat-bottom boat to see hippos and breeding colonies of herons, egrets, pelicans, storks, and cormorants. **XAKANAXA CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 9 AND 10 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK/ VICTORIA FALLS AND LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Board our aircraft for a flight to Chobe National Park, known for its many elephant families. On a wildlife river cruise, watch for elephants frolicking at the water's edge and using their trunks like snorkels as they swim. Then fly along the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers to Livingstone; and check into the luxurious Royal Livingstone Hotel, just steps from Victoria Falls. Design your morning according to your interests: visit a local village or the Livingstone Museum, or venture into the



Maramba market. Take a canoe safari, or experience the falls from a thrilling perspective on an optional flight-seeing excursion. Explore the falls with a local guide this afternoon, venturing into the mists along suspended walkways. Board the historic *Royal Livingstone Express* steam train for a festive farewell dinner as we travel through Mosi-o-Tunya National Park. **ROYAL LIVINGSTONE HOTEL (B, L, B, D)**

DAYS 11 AND 12 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA/U.S.

Fly to Johannesburg and connect with your return flight home, arriving the next day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: May 10–21 • Jul. 26–Aug. 6 • Aug. 23–Sep. 3
Sep. 20–Oct. 1 • Dec. 27, 2014–Jan. 7, 2015

Expedition Cost:

\$14,785

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,050. All flights within Africa are included in the expedition cost. Transportation within Africa is by DC-3 (minimum of 16 guests required) or by small private aircraft (if there are fewer than 16 guests). Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Johannesburg is not included and begins at \$1,250 (subject to change).

About Our Accommodations:

MalaMala Main Camp and Mashatu Main Camp are luxury safari lodges; Xakanaxa Camp is a luxury tented camp; the Royal Livingstone Hotel is a five-star hotel.

Optional Cape Town Extension:

Add a five-day extension in Cape Town. Visit our website for details.

THE ULTIMATE SAFARI EXPERIENCE



On board our private DC-3, enjoy first-class service as we're whisked from one game reserve to the next. We fly at a low altitude, allowing for rare aerial views of spectacular landscapes and wildlife. On several days, you can tailor the trip to your interests and choose from a variety of activities—from walking safaris to excursions by boat or mountain bike to a wildlife photo shoot with a professional photographer.

THE GREAT APES OF UGANDA AND RWANDA



SET OFF ON A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME JOURNEY into the lush hills of Uganda and Rwanda to encounter chimpanzees and mountain gorillas in the wild. Observe chimpanzees with a primatologist, and track gorillas in the forests of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Parc National des Volcans. Stay in stunning lodges, from a lakeside bungalow at the foot of the Rwenzori Mountains to a hilltop eco-lodge with spectacular views of Rwanda's volcanoes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend two days tracking chimpanzees, two days tracking gorillas, and one day tracking endangered golden monkeys.
- Watch the antics of chimpanzees up close at a sanctuary established in association with the Jane Goodall Institute.
- Go on safari and take a wildlife cruise in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Meet with scientists at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's Karisoke Research Center.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Primatologist **Janette Wallis** coordinated the chimpanzee research at Tanzania's Gombe Stream Research Centre, and has been a collaborating scientist with the Budongo Forest

Project—both National Geographic-funded programs. She currently directs the Kasokwa Forest Project in a small forest fragment in Uganda that is home to chimpanzees, baboons, and other wildlife. Research at the site focuses on behavioral ecology, reproduction, conservation, and human-wildlife interactions. Janette is a vice president of the International Primatological Society and editor-in-chief of the journal *African Primates*. She earned her Ph.D. in zoology, psychology, and anthropology from the University of Oklahoma, where she teaches wildlife conservation courses.

JANETTE WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ENTEBBE, UGANDA

Depart on an overnight flight to Uganda and transfer to our hotel, set on the shores of Lake Victoria. LAKE VICTORIA SERENA RESORT

DAY 3 NGAMBA ISLAND

After breakfast, take a short boat ride to Ngamba Island to visit the Chimpanzee Sanctuary, established in association with the Jane Goodall Institute. The island, home to hippos, otters, monitor lizards, and many species of birds, provides a natural habitat for chimpanzees that have been orphaned or rescued from captivity. After a talk with a caretaker, watch these fascinating creatures from a special viewing platform. Later, encounter a broad spectrum of indigenous wildlife and plants at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre. (B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

Travel to Kibale National Park, stopping in Fort

Portal, a market town at the foot of the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains. Keep an eye out for black-and-white colobus monkeys as we continue the scenic drive to our lodge, set on a crater lake against a backdrop of high peaks. After breakfast the following day, head into Kibale National Park, whose tropical rain forests harbor 13 different primate species, including chimpanzees, black-and-white colobus, red-tailed and blue monkeys, and the rare l'Hoest's monkey. After a morning of chimpanzee tracking, take a short walk in the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, on the lookout for primates, butterflies, and some 200 species of birds. Later, a resident primatologist joins us for a special talk. KYANINGA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 6 AND 7 KIBALE NATIONAL PARK/ QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Spend a second morning tracking chimpanzees with our primatologist. Then stop at the Equator on our way to Queen Elizabeth National Park, home to a high concentration of Uganda's mammals, as well as more than 600 species of birds. The next morning, set out on safari to look



The view from the hilltop bandas of Virunga Safari Lodge extends far across the peaks of Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans.

for elephants, lions, hyenas, and Ugandan kobs among the park's volcanic craters and gorges. In the afternoon, enjoy a wildlife cruise along the Kazinga Channel, home to large concentrations of hippos, crocodiles, and water birds. MWEYA SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 8 AND 9 QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK/BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

Leave the park via the southern plains of Ishasha, known for its tree-climbing lions. Stop to view wildlife and enjoy a picnic lunch as we travel towards Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Visit a local clinic to learn how doctors provide health-



Settled in the crook of a tree, a chimpanzee peers out pensively.

care in this remote area. In the thick forests that blanket the hills of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, roughly half of the world's remaining mountain gorillas make a home alongside rare birds and a wealth of other wildlife. Early the next morning, head out with park rangers to track mountain gorillas. Sit among these gentle giants, observing their interactions, listening to their distinctive grumbles, and viewing one of the planet's most endangered creatures from an awe-inspiring, up-close perspective. Time permitting, take an afternoon walk to waterfalls set amid tree ferns and orchids, or pay a visit to a nearby village and watch a dance performance by the Batwa Pygmies. BWINDI SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS, RWANDA

Cross the border into Rwanda and settle into your private *banda*, or villa, perched on a hilltop with stunning views of the surrounding volcanoes and lakes. In the afternoon, meet children at a local school and watch a performance of traditional Rwandan dances. Spend the next day tracking mountain gorillas with local guides in the forested hills of Parc National des Volcans, where National Geographic grantee Dian Fossey conducted research on gorillas for 18 years. Later, meet experts at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's Karisoke Research Center to learn about ongoing conservation efforts and a recent National Geographic-funded study that shed more light on



ape health and evolution. Tonight, celebrate your encounter with the great apes at a farewell dinner. VIRUNGA SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS/KIGALI/U.S.

Set out into the lower, flatter reaches of the park on the lookout for golden monkeys, a distinctly colored species now considered one of the most endangered primates in Africa. After lunch at the lodge, travel to the airport in Kigali for your flights home, arriving the next day. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Aug. 9–21 • Aug. 22–Sep. 3
Dec. 27, 2014–Jan. 8, 2015

2015: Feb. 26–Mar. 10

Expedition Cost:

2014	\$10,995
2015	\$11,995

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,900 in 2014 and \$3,000 in 2015. All primate-tracking permits are included in the expedition cost. Airfare is not included. Economy airfare from New York to Entebbe and return from Kigali begins at \$1,700 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

This is an active expedition with moderate to strenuous hikes. Participants must be at least 15 years old, and should be physically fit. Each departure is limited to 16 travelers. While tracking primates, guests will trek through thick jungle at elevations ranging up to 10,000 feet, for as many as six hours, depending on the location of the primates. Treks can be arduous; and the terrain can be steep, uneven, wet, and muddy. This trip is not suitable for those who suffer from a cardiac, respiratory, or circulatory disorder or a disability that limits mobility.

ETHIOPIA: THE OMO VALLEY AND LALIBELA

new



SPLIT BY THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY AND GRACED WITH JUNGLES and basalt plateaus, Ethiopia's geography is as dramatic as its history and culture. Ethiopia is a cradle of our earliest ancestors; a hub for some of the first Christians, Muslims, and Jews; and a last frontier for some of Africa's most intriguing tribal traditions. Encounter the captivating cultures of the Omo Valley and the subterranean churches of Lalibela, and enjoy the insights of visionaries, farmers, and researchers.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Omo Child, an organization co-founded by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Lale Labuko to rescue "cursed" *mingi* children.
- Get to know the unique traditions of the many ethnic groups of the Omo Valley.
- Celebrate one of Ethiopia's colorful festivals in Addis Ababa or Lalibela.
- Step behind the scenes on a private tour of the National Museum of Ethiopia.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Chris Rainier is considered one of today's leading documentary photographers specializing in indigenous cultures. A National Geographic Explorer, Chris was a co-founder of the Society's All Roads Photography Program and a co-director of the Enduring Voices Project documenting endangered languages and cultures. He serves as a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. His life's mission is to document endangered cultures and help empower them to use modern technology to save their ancient traditions through a project he directs called the Last Mile Technology Program. Chris has won numerous awards for his photography, and was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in London.

CHRIS WILL ACCOMPANY THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTURES IN SEPTEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Depart for Addis Ababa on an overnight flight. Arrive the following day and gather in the evening for a welcome dinner. RADISSON BLU (D)

DAY 3 ADDIS ABABA/ARBA MINCH

Enjoy an introduction to Ethiopia's many dozens of ethnic groups at the Ethnographic Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and delve into their diverse languages, belief systems, and everyday traditions. Then fly to Arba Minch, the last large town en route to the Omo Valley. Built around a group of natural springs, Arba Minch (Forty Springs) sits among rolling forests at the junction of Lake Abaya and Lake Chamo. PARADISE LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 4 ARBA MINCH/JINKA

For millennia, the Omo Valley has been inhabited by a wide variety of ethnic groups with rich and distinctive cultural identities. This is the home of tribes such as the Kara, the Hamar, and the Mursi, who



Holding tight to a beaded basket, a child displays body paint and adornments typical to the Mursi people.

decorate themselves with beads, scars, feathers, and elaborate body paint and undergo unique initiation rites. A day's drive by 4x4 brings us through the valley's lush landscapes and a tapestry of communities. Stop in a Konso village, part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, and wander among thatched huts and intricate terraced hills. Meet the residents and see their handmade textiles and carved funerary totems. In the late afternoon, arrive in Jinka, set at the edge of Mago National Park. ECO OMO SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D)

Above: Sunset silhouettes Kara tribespeople in Ethiopia's Omo Valley.



The 12th-century geometry of one of Lalibela's spectacular rock-hewn churches catches the sunlight.

DAY 5 JINKA

Venture into Mago National Park on the lookout for hartebeests, dik-diks, colobus monkeys, and a wide variety of birds. Meet members of the Mursi, a pastoralist society whose women wear lip plates. Return to Jinka to visit Omo Child, a nonprofit co-founded by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Lale Labuko to stop the practice of mingi. This superstition dictates the killing of children who are believed to be cursed, and is still followed by some tribes. Omo Child rescues these children and gives them a home and an education to help them become contributors to society in the future. (B, L, D)



National Geographic Emerging Explorer Lale Labuko

A native of the Omo Valley, Lale Labuko co-founded Omo Child to stop the

practice of mingi, the ritualistic killing of children. Ancient belief says mingi children will bring drought, famine, and disease to the tribe and must therefore be killed. Through Omo Child, these children are provided safe shelter, medical care, and education. As a result of Lale's efforts, elders of his own tribe, the Kara, officially banned mingi in 2012.

Read more about this trip on page 4.

See our Ethiopia Photography Expedition on page 110.

DAY 6 JINKA/TURMI

Meet some of the children rescued by Lale and Omo Child and learn their stories firsthand. Then get acquainted with more of the region's peoples, visiting the villages of Key Afer and Dimeka on our way to the market town of Turmi, home of the Hamar people. BUSKA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 TURMI

Explore the diverse communities around Turmi. Drive southwest to Omorate and cross the Omo River by canoe to visit the Daasanach people and meet Kara pastoralists, known for their face and body painting. Learn about tribal customs and conflicts, and wander through local markets, one of the rare settings in which members of various groups interact. Lale or one of his colleagues will join us here for a conversation with tribal leaders who have ended the practice of mingi killing as a result of Omo Child's efforts. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 9 TURMI/ARBA MINCH

Travel back to Arba Minch, stopping at an Arbore community to learn about the importance of dancing and singing to this culture. Discuss local issues with a Konso chief, a spiritual leader with an important role in tribal judicial matters. PARADISE LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 10 ARBA MINCH/ADDIS ABABA

Take a cruise on Lake Chamo for a chance to see hippos and crocodiles. Then fly to Addis Ababa. This evening, join paleoanthropologist Dr. Berhane Asfaw for dinner and a presentation on his discovery of a fossil that may represent a new pre-hominid species. RADISSON BLU (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 LALIBELA

Fly north to the World Heritage site of Lalibela. Carved out of sheer rock below ground level, Lalibela's eleven freestanding churches date from the 12th century. Spend the day venturing through the tunnels and trenches that link the churches and visit several of them, including the sophisticated Bet Giyorgis. Later, learn the secrets of Ethiopian cuisine at a cooking school and participate in a traditional coffee ceremony with a local family. The next day, head into the countryside to visit Yemrehanna Kristos, a beautiful church built within a mountainside cave that predates the churches of Lalibela. Stop at a village for an up-close look at rural life in northern Ethiopia. This evening, gather around a large bonfire and join in the festivities of the Orthodox holiday of Meskel.* TUKUL VILLAGE (B, L, D DAILY)



DAYS 13 AND 14 ADDIS ABABA/U.S.

Return to Addis Ababa for a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Museum of Ethiopia, which houses some of the country's most treasured archaeological discoveries. Gather for a farewell dinner before our evening flights and arrive home the next day. RADISSON BLU (B, L, D)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Sep. 15–28* • Dec. 29, 2014–Jan. 11, 2015

2015: Jan. 9–22 • Apr. 1–14

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 110 for details.

*The itinerary shown describes the September departure, which includes the Meskel festival on Day 12. Celebrations on other departures include Genna (Christmas) in December, Timkat (Epiphany) in January, and Fasika (Easter) in April. See our website for detailed itineraries.

Expedition Cost:

\$7,695

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,430. Round-trip economy airfare between Washington, D.C. and Addis Ababa is \$1,500, and flights within Ethiopia are \$650 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

Traveling to Ethiopia is an adventure. While tourism is growing steadily, the nation's infrastructure is still in the early stages of development. Hotels in Addis Ababa and Lalibela will be comfortable, clean, and modern. In the Omo Valley, we stay in a tented camp with basic amenities where electricity and hot water are sometimes sporadic. Travel in the Omo Valley will be in 4x4 vehicles, with some journeys taking 6–8 hours over rugged roads. Patience, flexibility, and enthusiasm are essential to the enjoyment of this expedition.

Optional Extension:

Add a five-day post-trip extension to Lake Tana, Gondar, and the Simien Mountains. Visit our website or call for details.

MOROCCAN ODYSSEY



MOROCCO'S MYSTIQUE CAN BE FOUND IN MEDINAS THAT BRIM WITH COLOR, soaring mountains that give way to endless desert, and stunning Moorish architecture. Discover the enchanting cities of Marrakech and Fez, venture into rose-colored kasbahs, and visit little-known mountain villages. Listen to the strains of Berber music around a campfire in the Sahara, and stay at the historic Palais Jamai in Fez.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the Roman ruins of Volubilis and the ancient adobe village of Aït Benhaddou, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Ride a camel at sunset from a tented camp nestled among the sculpted dunes, and watch the sun rise over the Sahara.
- Observe artisans plying their timeless crafts in the workshops of Fez.
- Learn about Berber culture while sipping mint tea in a traditional mountain village.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer **David Scott Silverberg** is a National Geographic grantee who has worked on community-based protected area projects on six continents. A fellow of the Explorers Club, the Royal Africa Society, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Royal Asia Society, David has worked throughout North Africa and the Middle East since 1989. In Morocco, he has participated in mapping projects, mentored doctoral students, and studied the history of exploration by Moroccan adventurers. He is currently working on a book on the Atlas–Sahara transition. David previously served as executive director for research at EarthWatch, and helped launch AmeriCorps's environmental programs.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

Depart on an overnight flight to Casablanca. After time to relax the following morning, meet the group for lunch before visiting the extraordinary Hassan II Mosque, which boasts the world's tallest minaret at 689 feet. This afternoon, stroll through the city's Habous district and the *mechouar*, the ceremonial meeting place outside the Royal Palace. Tonight, gather for a festive welcome dinner. **SOFITEL CASABLANCA TOUR BLANCHE** (L, D)

DAY 3 CASABLANCA/MARRAKECH

Drive through the elegant Anfa neighborhood on the way to Marrakech, Morocco's legendary "pearl of the South." Enjoy a poolside lunch at the hotel before exploring the city of Marrakech. See the splendid Koutoubia Mosque and the Saadian Tombs, and visit Bahia Palace. Explore the labyrinthine streets of the medina, lined with market stalls and craftspeople; and soak up the colorful

chaos of Djemma el Fna Square, where snake charmers and magicians captivate the passersby. Tonight, gather for a rooftop reception and dinner accompanied by traditional Gnaoua music in the heart of the old medina. **LE MÉRIDIEN N'FIS** (B, L, D)

DAY 4 MARRAKECH

Continue exploring the sites of Marrakech today. Meander through the stunning Majorelle Garden, once owned by Yves Saint-Laurent. Explore historic Moroccan architecture with visits to the 14th-century Ben Youssef Madrasa and the Museum of Marrakech, located in the Dar Menebhi Palace. After lunch, venture back to the lively medina with our local guide or explore on your own. (B, L)

DAY 5 AÏT BENHADDOU/OUARZAZATE

Cross the High Atlas Mountains over the Tichka Pass, stopping for mint tea in a traditional Berber village. Descend to Aït Benhaddou and have lunch overlooking this ancient fortified village before venturing into its warren of twisting lanes and clay dwellings. Continue to Ouarzazate, a former colo-

Above: A herder leads his caravan of camels across the undulating dunes.



The setting sun casts a rosy glow on a crenellated wall in Marrakech.

nial trading post, now known for its movie studios where films like *Gladiator* and *Lawrence of Arabia* were shot. LE BERBÈRE PALACE (B, L, D)

DAY 6 OUARZAZATE/BOUMALNE DADES

Learn about traditional adobe architecture in Taourirt Kasbah this morning. Then set out on the fabled Road of 1,000 Kasbahs. Arrive in Boumalne Dades, a small town nestled amid the crags and plateaus of the semidesert landscape. After lunch, head out on a hike in the dramatic Dades Gorge and visit nearby villages. XALUCA DADES (B, L, D)

DAY 7 ERFOUD/RISSANI/MERZOUGA

Follow the Road of 1,000 Kasbahs to Erfoud, passing spectacular rock formations, oases, and



A cluster of hand-painted tagines displays a variety of colorful designs.

rose plantations. In Erfoud, climb into 4x4s for the drive into the desert. Visit the suq in Rissani, a historic camel caravan stop. Later, ride into the dunes on a camel to watch the sun set on the Sahara. Return to our deluxe Berber tented camp to dine under the star-studded sky and enjoy an evening of Berber folk music and tales around the campfire. BIVOUAC TENTED BERBER CAMP (B, L, D)

DAY 8 MERZOUGA/FEZ

Awaken early for a walk across the sandscape as the rising sun paints the dunes orange and gold. Return to the camp for a hearty breakfast. Then head north into the high-mountain plains on your way to Fez. Arrive in Fez late this afternoon, and settle into your room at the legendary Palais Jamai, your home for the next three nights. PALAIS JAMAI (B, L, D)

DAY 9 FEZ

Spend the day exploring this magnificent imperial city. Discover the 14th-century Bou Inania Madrasa, characterized by its intricately carved stucco walls, arches, and cornices. See the Nejjarine Fountain, covered in exquisite mosaics, and the Kairouine Mosque. Delve into the lively medina, where merchants preside over colorful mounds of spices and tanners soak skins in vats of dye. Visit the Royal Palace and Fes Jdid, home to the historic Jewish Quarter. (B, L)



DAY 10 FEZ/VOLUBILIS AND MEKNES

Today you may choose to explore Fez at your own pace or take an excursion to the Roman ruins of Volubilis, a World Heritage site, and Meknes, Morocco's 17th-century capital. Tonight, toast our Moroccan adventure at a farewell dinner and belly-dancing performance at the Palais Jamai. (B, D)

DAY 11 FEZ/U.S.

This morning, transfer to the Fez airport for your return flight or transfer to Casablanca for flights departing in the afternoon. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Mar. 21–31 • Apr. 18–28 • May 9–19 📷
Oct. 3–13 📷 • Oct. 15–25 📷
Oct. 17–27 • Oct. 31–Nov. 10

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 111 for details.

Expedition Cost:

\$5,875

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,295. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Casablanca and return from Fez is \$1,400 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

Our hotels are first-class, well-located properties that reflect the character of each region. In Marrakech, Ouarzazate, and Fez, each hotel has a lovely pool and stunning tropical gardens. Our camp in Merzouga features deluxe Berber-style tents with en suite bathrooms and generator-powered electricity.

See our [Morocco Photography Expedition on page 111](#).

THE HOLY LAND: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE HOLY LAND on an expedition inspired by the peace-building efforts of National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah. Explore the City of David and Masada, glide across the Sea of Galilee, and discover Jerusalem through the eyes of Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Hear a broad spectrum of narratives on this program designed in partnership by Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Jews.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet artists and politicians, settlers and refugees, imams and rabbis.
- Explore the archaeological site of Caesarea Maritima with National Geographic Emerging Explorer Beverly Goodman.
- Enjoy a unique dual narrative provided by the Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders who accompany the entire expedition.
- Visit the Yad Vashem Memorial and hear a firsthand account from a Holocaust survivor.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Aziz Abu Sarah** is a cultural educator who has dedicated his life to bringing Israelis and Palestinians together to

build understanding and forge lasting relationships. He has spoken on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, peace, reconciliation, and interfaith dialogue before the European Parliament and the United Nations, and at many universities.



Author **Yuval Ben-Ami** writes for the Hebrew editions of *National Geographic* magazine and has published two travel books about Israel. His work in conflict resolution began

in 2000 at Jerusalem's Youth Center of World Cultures, and he has since mediated, lectured, and trained in a number of forums.

AZIZ WILL ACCOMPANY THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER DEPARTURES; YUVAL WILL JOIN ALL OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./TEL AVIV, ISRAEL/ JERUSALEM

Take an overnight flight to Tel Aviv, and transfer to Jerusalem. Relax at the hotel before our reception and welcome dinner tonight. **AMERICAN COLONY HOTEL (D)**

DAY 3 JERUSALEM

Begin the day on the Temple Mount, capped by the shining cupola of the Dome of the Rock. Meet an imam from the Al-Aqsa Mosque, who will explain this holy site's importance to Muslims. Then visit the Western Wall with a rabbi, touch the ancient stones, and learn about the significance of this sacred place. A local pastor then joins us at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, home to six Christian sects and, according to tradition, the tomb of Jesus. In the afternoon, ascend to the top of the Mount of Olives and take in a panoramic view of the domes, spires, and golden stones of Jerusalem's Old City. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 JERUSALEM

Just outside the Old City walls lies the City of David, thought to be the original capital city established by King David some 3,000 years ago. Venture into the archaeological site, and meet with its Israeli administrators, and later with residents of the nearby Palestinian neighborhood who oppose the excavations. Later, get an insider's perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with an Israeli politician. Then travel to Ramallah, where we are granted rare access to the offices of the Palestinian Authority, and hear from a high-ranking politician. (B, L)

DAY 5 JERUSALEM

Today, trace the turbulent history of the birth of the state of Israel. At Yad Vashem, Israel's moving memorial to the Holocaust, meet with a Holocaust survivor for a personal glimpse into one of history's darkest moments. Then travel to Ein Kerem, where Christian tradition says John the Baptist was born. An Israeli and a Palestinian guide will each tell their divergent narrative of the village's role in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Enjoy time to explore Jerusalem on your own. Tonight, gather for a discussion with Israeli and



Masada, the multi-tiered fortress and palace built by Herod the Great, towers above the Judean desert.

Palestinian peace activists from the Bereaved Families Forum. (B, D)

DAY 6 BETHLEHEM AND THE WEST BANK

Travel to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc to hear the viewpoints of Israeli settlers. Continue to Bethlehem and meet with the mayor to learn about the city's shrinking Christian population. Stop by Manger Square and, at the Church of the Nativity, descend into the cave revered by many as the birthplace of Jesus. Walk through a nearby Palestinian refugee camp, and learn how murals and graffiti have been used to depict the refugees' struggles. Our final stop is Herodion, a volcano-shaped hill and fortress built by Herod the Great. Over dinner, take in a musical performance by a group of Israeli and Palestinian musicians. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 JERUSALEM/JERICHO/DEAD SEA

This morning, meet with an environmentalist from Friends of the Earth Middle East whose efforts to

foster Arab-Jewish cooperation through environmental stewardship were featured in the special April 2010 "Water" issue of *National Geographic* magazine. View the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum, and then drive down through the Judean Desert to Jericho to visit the archaeological site of Tel Jericho. This afternoon, arrive on the shores of the Dead Sea and check into our hotel. ISROTEL DEAD SEA HOTEL & SPA (B, L, D)

DAY 8 THE JORDAN RIVER VALLEY/TIBERIAS

Soar up the flank of Masada in a gondola and explore King Herod's 2,000-year-old mountaintop refuge. Then follow the Jordan Valley north to the Roman city of Bet She'an to see its remarkably preserved amphitheater, baths, and column-lined streets. Along the way, stop to dip your feet in the Jordan River, where Christian pilgrims come to be baptized. Visit a kibbutz in Galilee to learn about early Jewish communities in Israel before continuing to Tiberias. THE SCOTS HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 9 GALILEE

Take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee from Tiberias to Capernaum, where Jesus lived and preached, and many apostles, including Peter, made their home. Continue north to Caesarea Philippi, a center of worship from the Hellenic age to the early Christian era. Explore the area as you wish this afternoon: follow a scenic trail to the Banias waterfall or enjoy a short hike through the Tel Dan Nature Reserve to the ancient city of Dan. As the sun begins to set, take a drive through the Golan Heights. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 NAZARETH/JAFFA/TEL AVIV

Hear the perspective of an Israeli Arab Christian on the way to Nazareth, where we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, one of the largest churches



in the Middle East. On an excursion to the mountaintop village of Beit Jann, discover the secretive traditions of the Druze, and enjoy lunch with a Druze family in their home. Travel towards the Mediterranean coast this afternoon, and explore picturesque Jaffa, a strategic port town dating back to the Bronze Age. Explore the bustling city of Tel Aviv, our home for tonight, and enjoy dinner on your own. DAN TEL AVIV HOTEL (B, L)

DAYS 11 AND 12 CAESAREA MARITIMA/TEL AVIV/U.S.

Follow the coast north to Caesarea Maritima, Herod's harbor city, and visit the ruins with geo-archaeologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer Beverly Goodman. Then enjoy a free afternoon in Tel Aviv before gathering for a farewell reception and dinner. After breakfast the next morning, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Mar. 28–Apr. 8 • May 9–20 • Sep. 12–23
Oct. 24–Nov. 4 • Nov. 7–18
Dec. 26, 2014–Jan. 6, 2015

Expedition Cost:

\$5,795

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,845. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Tel Aviv begins at \$1,000 (subject to change).

Please note: A State Department travel warning for Israel is currently in effect (<http://travel.state.gov>). We expect to operate this trip as planned, but will continue to closely monitor events in the region, and will alter the itinerary if necessary.

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day extension to Petra, Jordan. Visit our website or call for details.



Mirrored by his shadow, a Hasidic Jew prays at the Western Wall.

AUSTRALIA'S WILD NORTHWEST

new



STRETCHING ALONG AUSTRALIA'S NORTHWEST COAST, the Kimberley Plateau is a vast landscape of plunging waterfalls, wild sandstone formations, deep gorges—and very few people. Aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, the newest ship in our fleet, see ancient rock art and discover the mythology and culture of the isolated Aboriginal people here. Encounter a wide array of wildlife, and navigate the stunning coast in Zodiacs and kayaks.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Soar over the unique formations of the Bungle Bungle Range during a scenic flight.
- Glide in a Zodiac between steep canyon walls to King George Falls, powerful twin cascades that tumble some 260 feet.
- Examine Gwion Gwion paintings, some of the oldest rock art in the world.
- Explore mangroves, narrow inlets, and reefs by Zodiac, spotting crocodiles and a variety of birds.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and photographer **David Wright** will accompany the May 30, and June 9, 2014 departures. With more than 25 years of professional experi-

ence, David has contributed to a wide variety of National Geographic projects including the television series “Untamed Americas” for which he won an Emmy. Assignments have taken him throughout Australia, from the Northern Territory and the Kimberley to remote Aboriginal communities and wildlife hotspots. He has produced films about Australia’s saltwater crocodiles and cassowaries, as well as the creatures that have inspired Aboriginal rock art and Dreamtime legends.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

Depart for Darwin, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 3. Established on the coast of the Northern Territory, Darwin began as a frontier town of pioneering cattlemen, gold miners, and crocodile hunters and has developed into a thriving, multicultural city. Settle into your cabin aboard the *National Geographic Orion* and cast off this afternoon. *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION* (D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 COM, EAST TIMOR/AT SEA

Settle into your cabin and prepare for the amazing photographic opportunities ahead with talks and hands-on instruction by our National Geographic photographer and certified photo instructor. The ship makes a brief stop at Com before continuing into the heart of the Kimberley. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 6 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES OR LAKE ARGYLE, AUSTRALIA

Dock in Wyndham and spend the day in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Purnululu National



Wandjina figures painted on rock reveal clues about an ancient mythology.

Park, home of the breathtaking Bungle Bungle Range, where striped sandstone hills shaped like giant beehives give way to deep chasms filled with greenery. Get an incredible view of this otherworldly cone karst landscape during a flightseeing excursion. Or you may choose to cruise the Ord River to Lake Argyle, keeping an eye out for crocodiles, wallabies, *jabirus* (black-necked storks), and kookaburras in the remarkably lush ecosystem that has developed above the Ord River Dam. Take in views of the lake and learn about the area’s pioneers on a visit to the Durack homestead. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 KING GEORGE RIVER

Drop anchor at the mouth of the King George River and ride Zodiacs upriver, weaving between

Above: Travelers in a Zodiac experience the thunder and awe of King George Falls.



A young agile wallaby stays close to its mother.

nearly vertical canyon walls. Our destination is the dramatic King George Falls, where water drains off the plateau in twin cascades, careening down some 260 feet. Early in the season, we will probably hang back in the mist to watch the thundering water. Later in the year, we will get right up close—even under—the falls. If you wish, hike to the top of the falls and cool off in a freshwater rock pool. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 VANSITTART BAY

Enter Vansittart Bay and go ashore at Jar Island to experience the mystical culture of Kimberley's Aboriginal people at an outdoor gallery of prehistoric Gwion Gwion rock art. The elegant images, dating back tens of thousands of years ago, are also known as "Bradshaw figures," after Joseph

Bradshaw, who first recorded the style in 1891. If time permits, explore the remains of a World War II DC-3 plane that crashed nearby. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 HUNTER RIVER

With crimson cliffs jutting toward the sky and thick mangroves lining the waterways, Prince Frederick Harbour and Hunter River make for some of the most spectacular scenery on the Kimberley coast. Drop anchor near Naturalists Island and set off to explore Hunter River by Zodiac. Navigate the mangroves, on the lookout for crocodiles and numerous bird species, or take an optional helicopter flight to Mitchell Falls to get a unique perspective on the Kimberley's vast, rugged, and hard-to-reach interior. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 MONTGOMERY ISLANDS AND RAFT POINT

The Kimberley coast is known for its dramatic tides. We'll arrive at the reef surrounding the Montgomery Islands at the turn of the tide and position ourselves to watch the water drop rapidly and miles of reef appear suddenly, as if rising from the sea. This is a fantastic opportunity to spot wildlife such as cormorants, egrets, sea turtles, and reef sharks as they forage for creatures trapped on the reef. Continue to Raft Point, where we climb up to a saddle of rock filled with ancient rock art. Trace the lore of the sacred Wandjina ancestors and their 'great fish chase' in paintings depicting spirits and native creatures. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 TALBOT BAY AND HORIZONTAL WATERFALLS

Sail into the Buccaneer Archipelago to witness an extraordinary phenomenon: the "horizontal waterfalls" of Talbot Bay. These double waterfalls, created by the sudden tidal rise and fall when conditions are right, surge up to ten or more feet, as the trapped water pushes inland or cascades out through the narrow gaps to the ocean side. Hop into Zodiacs to experience this exhilarating event. Later in the day, join our naturalists on an excursion to Cyclone Bay to explore the twisted geological folds of the ancient seabed. (B, L, D)



The new *National Geographic Orion*



DAY 12 NARES POINT AND CROCODILE CREEK

A long finger of sandstone protruding from the mainland alongside Koolan Island, Nares Point provides great opportunities to explore by Zodiac and go on beach walks with our naturalists. In nearby "Crocodile Creek"—which, despite its name, is free of crocodiles—take a refreshing swim in cool natural pools. (B, L, D)

DAYS 13 AND 14 BROOME/U.S.

Disembark in Broome and make your way to the airport for an overnight flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: May 10–23 • May 20–Jun. 2*
May 30–Jun. 12 • Jun. 9–22*
Jun. 19–Jul. 2 • Jun. 29–Jul. 12*
Jul. 9–22 • Jul. 19–Aug. 1* • Jul. 29–Aug. 11

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$8,210
Located on Main Deck with oval windows	
Category 2	\$9,530
Located on Main Deck with large oval window	
Category 3	\$11,320
Located on Upper Deck—Suite with window	
Category 4	\$12,390
Located on Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window	
Category 5	\$14,790
Located on Bridge Deck—Suite with balcony	
Category 6	\$17,190
Located on Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with balcony	

See *National Geographic Orion* description and deck plan on page 131. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$4,110 in Category 1 and \$5,660 in Category 3. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Los Angeles to Darwin and return from Broome is \$1,700 (subject to change).

ALTERNATE ITINERARY: AUSTRALIA'S WILD NORTHWEST AND THE SPICE ISLANDS new

17 Days • 2014: Aug. 8–25

If you have more time to explore, combine a voyage along Australia's dramatic Kimberley coast with the contrasting landscapes of Indonesia's tropical isles. Discover natural wonders from the reefs of Rowley Shoals and towering King George Falls to the pink coral beaches of Komodo. Look for humpbacks in their breeding grounds and observe wallabies, crocodiles, and Komodo dragons in the wild. Delve into diverse cultures and histories as we examine Aboriginal cave art, visit World War II sites, and meet island peoples. See our website for details.

EXPLORE THE SOUTH SEAS ON OUR NEWEST SHIP,

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION, THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-LINDBLAD FLEET, will take us far off the beaten path in 2014, exploring the captivating cultures and gemlike islands that are scattered across the Pacific.

A fully stabilized, state-of-the-art expedition vessel, the *National Geographic Orion* accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins with ocean views. The ship is outfitted for both snorkelers and divers, and the voyages we've planned are packed with opportunities to discover the marine world. Each of these expeditions will be joined by a dynamic expedition team, including expert naturalists, an undersea specialist, divemasters, and a National Geographic photographer.

From the dazzling coral reefs of Fiji to the jubilant welcome ceremonies of Indonesia, we invite you to encounter wild and spectacular places while enjoying the superb amenities and exploration tools of a modern expedition ship.



ALL TRIPS ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION ARE OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 20 DAYS



INDONESIAN ODYSSEY: BALI TO AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF

Set sail from Bali to discover Indonesia's rich tapestry of cultures and stunning tropical islands. Spot rare Komodo dragons in the wild, and snorkel and dive pristine coral reefs from the Moluccas to West Papua. Explore the fascinating culture and landscape of the Asmat people, and cap off your journey on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

- Encounter Indonesia's vibrant cultures during exuberant welcome ceremonies in remote island villages.
- Track the rare Komodo dragon with park rangers in Komodo National Park.
- Discover the unique culture and exquisite art of the Asmat people while exploring their stilt villages by Zodiac.
- Swim, snorkel, and dive at spectacular reefs, isolated atolls, and ivory beaches from eastern Indonesia to Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

ITINERARY | 16 DAYS

EXPLORING THE CORAL SEA: PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO FIJI

Trace the edge of the Coral Sea from Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Fiji, snorkeling and diving pristine reefs and World War II shipwrecks along the way. Learn the history of the Battle of the Coral Sea and the legends of the ancient Melanesians, and get to know the region's diverse cultures.

- Snorkel and dive in Papua New Guinea's Louisiade Archipelago and meet the islands' potters and boat builders.
- Explore Kasolo Island, also called Kennedy Island, where young John F. Kennedy swam when his boat *PT-109* was sunk during World War II.
- See ancient cave art in Vanuatu, and visit the burial site of Chief Roi Mata, part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Watch the firewalkers of Fiji make their way across white-hot stones.



ITINERARY | 20 DAYS



REEFS, LAGOONS, AND VOLCANIC ISLES: FIJI TO TAHITI

Voyage from the sparkling white shores of Fiji to Tahiti's lush volcanic crags and discover a breath-taking array of geological formations, bird species, and marine life. Dive or snorkel among underwater canyons and tunnels formed from lava; meet island communities; and explore far-flung reefs of Kiribati that have been chosen as part of National Geographic's Pristine Seas project.

- Snorkel and dive the Southern Line Islands, designated one of the world's most unspoiled reefs by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala.
- Spot rare birds and flowers in the rain forests of Samoa.
- Witness a traditional kava ceremony in Tonga.
- Sail into the massive lagoon at Rangiroa, French Polynesia, and immerse yourself in its underwater wonders.

ITINERARY | 20 DAYS

LEGENDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC: TAHITI TO EASTER ISLAND

The tropical seas that stretch from French Polynesia to Easter Island have seen missionaries and mutineers, explorers and enigmatic cultures pass their way. Discover Bora Bora's dramatic volcanic formations and the uplifted atoll of Henderson Island. Hear tales of the *Kon-Tiki*, and encounter the *moai* of Easter Island.

- Dive or snorkel the reefs of Fakarava, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the Pitcairn Islands, one of National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala's Pristine Seas preservation areas.
- Trace the legend of the H.M.S. *Bounty* on Pitcairn Island, where descendants of its mutineers still live today.
- Explore the unusual geology of Henderson Island, a World Heritage site.
- Delve into the lost culture of Easter Island with an archaeologist.



INFORMATION

Expedition Dates and Cost:

Indonesian Odyssey:

Bali to the Great Barrier Reef

2014: Oct. 18–Nov. 6 from **\$16,620**

Exploring the Coral Sea:

Papua New Guinea to Fiji

2014: Nov. 3–18 from **\$12,940**

Reefs, Lagoons, and Volcanic Isles:

Fiji to Tahiti

2014: Nov. 16–Dec. 5 from **\$18,990**

Legends of the South Pacific:

Tahiti to Easter Island

2014: Dec. 3–22 from **\$17,930**

See *National Geographic Orion* deck plan on page 131. Prices are per person, double occupancy. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost.

See our website at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com for detailed itineraries and pricing.



Left to right: A traditional Indonesian dancer; a green sea turtle swims above numerous species of butterflyfish in the Coral Sea; an islander in Fiji silhouetted against the setting sun; enigmatic moai statues line the shores of Easter Island.

LAND OF THE POLAR BEARS



A HIGH ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO SITUATED BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE NORTH POLE, Svalbard is a place of deep fjords, snowcapped mountains, massive sheets of ice, and magnificent polar bears. Travel under the midnight sun aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* and experience nature in its purest form.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Search for the very symbol of the Arctic—the polar bear—and observe these majestic creatures in their natural habitat.
- Take naturalist-led shore walks, and cruise among beautiful passing icebergs in a Zodiac or a kayak.
- Experience the legendary midnight sun: the ethereal light of the northern summer, when the sun never sets.
- Watch for huge walruses, bearded and ringed seals, arctic foxes, and reindeer.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, award-winning photographer **Susan Seubert** will join the June 13 and 20 departures. Susan has photographed more than 20

feature stories for *National Geographic Traveler* since joining the magazine as a contributor in 2004. In addition to being widely published and exhibited, she also lectures regularly about her work at such institutions as Harvard University and the Portland Art Museum. Susan travels throughout the world shooting a variety of subjects and specializes in capturing a sense of place through her wide-ranging imagery. Her in-depth knowledge of digital technologies and her multimedia skills keep her at the cutting edge of visual storytelling.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./OSLO, NORWAY

Depart on an overnight flight to Oslo. Upon arrival, check into our hotel. On an afternoon tour of this charming city, stroll among the famed Vigeland sculptures—hundreds of life-size human figures set in terraced parkland. Visit the Fram Museum, showcasing the polar ship *Fram* and dedicated to the explorers and wooden vessels that navigated the Arctic Sea in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This evening you are free to explore Oslo on your own. THON HOTEL BRISTOL

DAY 3 OSLO/LONGYEARBYEN

Depart Oslo on a private charter flight, and enjoy breathtaking vistas en route to Longyearbyen. Embark the *National Geographic Explorer*, our base for the next six days. *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER* (B, L, D)



Two travelers kayak off Svalbard's pristine coast.

Above: A polar bear leaps from an ice floe in Svalbard.

Watch short videos about this expedition at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



The sea sprays as a Zodiac skims toward the shores of Svalbard.

DAYS 4–9 EXPLORING SVALBARD

This voyage is undertaken in the spirit of discovery, and our travel in the archipelago is exploratory by design. In a region ruled not by humans but by polar bears, we let nature guide our course. Svalbard lies north of the Arctic Circle, where the summer midnight sun never sets. With our fully stabilized ice-class expedition ship, we are able to probe the ice in search of wildlife. Our exact day-to-day itinerary remains flexible, depending on local ice and weather conditions. Zodiacs and kayaks take us closer to experience the region's geologic features and wildlife and the wildflowers that flourish during the summer months.

With our National Geographic photographer and a seasoned naturalist staff, venture to the foot of vast



The National Geographic Explorer



A reindeer buck gallops across a summer meadow in Arctic Svalbard.

tidewater glaciers, kayak among sparkling icebergs, and explore fjords that split the coastline. Hike through miniature gardens blooming on the tundra; and search the edge of the pack ice for polar bears, walrus, seals, reindeer, and arctic foxes. Nowhere can the polar bear be seen more reliably in its natural environment than here. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 10 LONGYEARBYEN/OSLO

In Longyearbyen, the largest settlement in Svalbard, disembark and enjoy time to explore. Founded by an American coal executive in 1906, this is one of the northernmost human settlements on Earth. Fly back to Oslo this afternoon. RADISSON BLU AIRPORT HOTEL (B, L)



DAY 11 OSLO/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 6–16 • Jun. 13–23 • Jun. 20–30

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$8,990
Located on Main Deck with porthole	
Category 2	\$9,590
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 3	\$9,960
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 4	\$10,560
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window	
Category 5	\$12,470
Located on Upper Deck with balcony	
Category 6	\$14,550
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite	
Category 7	\$16,630
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,400 in Category 2 and \$2,500 in Category 3. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Oslo is \$1,400, and between Oslo and Longyearbyen is \$725 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a five-day pre-trip extension to the breathtaking fjords of Norway or a five-day post-trip extension to Iceland that includes Reykjavik and the Golden Circle. Visit our website or call for details.

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE, ICELAND, AND GREENLAND

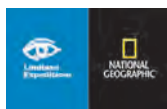


FOR CENTURIES, THE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE lured intrepid explorers, but it wasn't until 1906 that Roald Amundsen finally crossed the Arctic Archipelago by sea. Aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, explore the fjord-carved coasts of Iceland and Greenland, and encounter rare wildlife, hardy cultures, and glorious creations of ice and rock in the fabled Northwest Passage.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Venture into the Northwest Passage, and hear dramatic stories of explorers and adventurers who sought this magnificent and icy frontier.
- Glide between soaring icebergs on Greenland's Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Observe polar bears, walruses, belugas, and narwhals in their natural habitat.
- Visit the National Museum in Nuuk to see 15th-century Qilakitsoq mummies featured in *National Geographic* magazine.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Jay Dickman** will join a diverse team of experts—from naturalists to undersea specialists—on this voyage. Jay has covered events ranging from the war in El Salvador to the Olympics for numerous publications, including *National Geographic* magazine. A popular instructor and expedition leader, he has lived in a Stone Age village in Papua New Guinea and spent a week under the Arctic ice in a nuclear attack sub. Jay has published five books and numerous articles for *National Geographic Traveler*, *Life*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and *Forbes*.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's Pristine Seas program, an exploration, research, and media project to find, survey, and help protect the last wild places in the ocean.

ITINERARY | 25 DAYS

JULY 28 AND 29 U.S./REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Arrive in the capital city of Reykjavik, set so close to the Arctic that it receives some 22 hours of sunlight at this time of year. Take a walking tour of the Old Town, and delve into Viking history at the National Museum before settling into your cabin on the *National Geographic Explorer*. (L, D)

JULY 30 ICELAND'S WEST COAST

Sail past the immense Látrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Iceland and home to a huge population of razorbills. Next, visit the island of Flatey, a trading post for many centuries. Take a walk around its colorful hamlet and explore the coast by Zodiac. (B, L, D)

JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1 THE DENMARK STRAIT/ NANORTALIK, GREENLAND

Follow the wake of Erik the Red as we make our way across the Denmark Strait. Sail into Prins Christian Sund, which cuts far into the southern tip of Greenland, passing between towering pinnacles and glaciers. Anchor off Nanortalik, the

"place of polar bears," and go ashore to explore Greenland's most southerly town. (B, L, D DAILY)

AUGUST 2 AND 3 AT SEA/NUUK

After a day at sea, visit Nuuk, one of the world's smallest capital cities by population, with some 15,500 inhabitants. At the National Museum, examine the 15th-century Qilakitsoq mummies found near Uummannaq. (B, L, D DAILY)

AUGUST 4 GREENLAND'S WEST COAST/ SISIMIUT

Explore the fjords and glaciers of the dramatic western coast, on the lookout for humpback or



Unmistakable for its snowy coloring and smooth, bulging head, a beluga surfaces in turquoise waters.

Above: Sparkling icebergs clutter the seas off of Nanortalik, Greenland.

“The dream of a Northwest Passage lured European explorers for centuries...”

Place-names throughout the 4,000-mile-long passage read like a roster of those who challenged its icy labyrinth of more than 18,000 islands—Baffin, Hudson, Davis, Foxe, Parry, Bylot, Sverdrup.

Jeff MacInnis, “Braving the Northwest Passage,”
National Geographic magazine, May 1989



A naturally forged bridge of ice arches over Disko Bay, Greenland.

ALTERNATE ITINERARY: THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE, NEWFOUNDLAND, AND LABRADOR

24 Days • 2014: Aug. 19–Sep. 11



Venture deep into the far reaches of the Arctic archipelago in the footsteps of great explorers to discover the Northwest Passage aboard the *National*

Geographic Explorer with Gil Grosvenor, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of National Geographic. Then trace the coast of Baffin Island south to discover the wild shores and colorful history of Newfoundland and Labrador. See our website for details.

minke whales. Then visit the museum and 18th-century town center of the former whaling port of Sisimiut. (B, L, D)

AUGUST 5 AND 6 DISKO BAY AND ILULISSAT/AT SEA

Sail into Disko Bay to explore the Ilulissat Icefjord, a World Heritage site. The glacier here calves huge amounts of ice at an astonishing rate,

releasing icebergs hundreds of feet tall. Take an extraordinary cruise among these gigantic ice sculptures, then walk along the glacier to the ancient Inuit fishing village of Sermermiut. Spend the next day at sea enjoying the ship's many amenities. (B, L, D DAILY)

AUGUST 7, 8, AND 9 EXPLORING EAST BAFFIN ISLAND

Travel north along the wild coast, on the look-out for polar bears, bowhead whales, and the elusive narwhal. Visit the small Inuit community of Clyde River as we officially enter into Canada. (B, L, D DAILY)

AUGUST 10–19 EXPLORING THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Approach the legendary Northwest Passage from the Lancaster Sound, whose rich waters have drawn Inuit hunters and fishermen for thousands of years. From here, the ice-choked channels and glacier-carved islands of the Arctic Archipelago stretch for hundreds of miles, a stunning display of raw geology that we'll explore in depth. As we navigate these waterways, our itinerary is kept flexible. Depending on ice and weather conditions, we will follow wildlife, stop for hikes on the tundra, and drop anchor in a beautiful fjord or an iceberg-strewn bay to kayak or explore by Zodiac. We'll make our way



to Amundsen Gulf, looking for ringed seals, arctic foxes, musk oxen, walrus, and polar bears, beluga and bowhead whales, and maybe even a narwhal. (B, L, D DAILY)

AUGUST 20 AND 21 KUGLUKTUK/EDMONTON/ U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in Kugluktuk and fly to Edmonton where we overnight at our hotel. The next morning, transfer to the airport for flights home. THE FAIRMONT HOTEL MACDONALD (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:
2014: Jul. 28–Aug. 21

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$24,990
Located on Main Deck with porthole	
Category 2	\$26,950
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 3	\$27,980
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 4	\$29,990
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window	
Category 5	\$35,970
Located on Upper Deck with balcony	
Category 6	\$41,390
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite	
Category 7	\$47,990
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description, photo, and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$6,740 in Category 2 and \$7,000 in Category 3. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Reykjavik and return from Edmonton is \$1,750, and from Kugluktuk to Edmonton is \$590 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension in Iceland. Visit our website or call for details.

JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA



TRAVELING ABOARD THE STATE-OF-THE-ART NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER, encounter the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula and the surrounding islands and waterways. Glide around enormous tabular icebergs by Zodiac, walk along beaches covered with thousands of penguins, and kayak amid abundant marine life.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- View magnificent mountains, towering icebergs, and ice formations that make up the dramatic Antarctic landscape.
- Cruise aboard sturdy Zodiac landing craft in search of leopard seals.
- Kayak in protected waters, paddling around icebergs as penguins swim nearby.
- Walk on shore amid thousands of penguins, including gentoo, Adélie, and chinstrap.
- Explore the world's last great wilderness in the company of a team of top naturalists.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, photographers **Sisse Brimberg** and **Cotton Coulson** will join the November 28 and December 8, 2014 departures. Sisse and Cotton have col-

lectively photographed more than 60 stories for National Geographic's magazines, including a feature story on Antarctica for the October 2013 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*. They have shot stories from Arctic Norway to South Georgia to Italy and France. Sisse and Cotton have won awards from Pictures of the Year International, the National Press Photographers Association, White House Press Photographers Association, and *Communication Arts*. Today they are based in Glasgow, Scotland, but spend most of the year on the road producing magazine stories and videos for the Society.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina's cosmopolitan capital. Settle into our hotel before heading out on an afternoon tour of the city. Gather tonight for a welcome reception. CAESAR PARK HOTEL/MGALLERY

DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and enjoy lunch on a catamaran cruise of the Beagle Channel. Then set sail on the *National Geographic Explorer*. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 AT SEA/DRAKE PASSAGE

While crossing the spectacular Drake Passage, spot whales and other marine life that glide alongside the ship. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5-10 EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

With nearly 24 hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunity to explore the Antarctic Peninsula and the surrounding islands. In keep-



A kayaker maneuvers toward an icy landscape in the waters of Antarctica.

ing with the nature of an expedition, the schedule is flexible so that we can take advantage of the unexpected—watching whales perform off the bow, taking an after-dinner Zodiac cruise, or heading out on an extra landing during the day. We anticipate making several Zodiac landings each day to hike,

Above: On a recent expedition, a curious minke whale circled our Zodiacs to get a closer look.

“ Being on the *National Geographic Explorer* was a wonderful experience. ”

We had whale experts, penguin experts, underwater experts, all types of experts! We were novices, and to have that kind of guidance as we were seeing someplace so spectacular was phenomenal.

Doug and Lenore P., travelers



A waddle of gentoo penguins teeters across the snow.

kayak among the icebergs, and experience close encounters with wildlife. (B, L, D DAILY)

Depending on weather and sea conditions, we plan to make the following stops:

PARADISE BAY

This pristine bay is edged by soaring, ice-covered peaks. Hike to a summit for a breathtaking view, or kayak along a cliff-side rookery in search of blue-eyed shags.

LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND PETERMANN ISLAND

Cruise through the Lemaire Channel between towering snowcaps and blue icebergs. Step ashore at Petermann Island to the cries of thousands of

gentoo penguins standing along the shoreline as if awaiting your arrival.

NEKO HARBOR

Dock in Neko Harbor. Walk among the penguins on the beach or climb high onto an ice field for a panoramic vista of the untouched peaks surrounding this idyllic bay.

PORT LOCKROY

In 1944, the British government began an expedition code-named Operation Tabarin, creating a series of base stations in Antarctica. Base A, at Port Lockroy, is now a museum and Antarctica's only public post office.

DAYS 11 AND 12 AT SEA

Enjoy the ship's amenities as the Antarctic coast disappears from view. Round the southernmost tip of South America, and see the meeting of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Celebrate your voyage at a farewell dinner on board. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 13 AND 14 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA/ BUENOS AIRES/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia. After lunch, fly to Buenos Aires and connect with your overnight flight home. (B, L)



The *National Geographic Explorer*



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Nov. 28–Dec. 11 • Dec. 8–21
Dec. 18–31 • Dec. 28, 2014–Jan. 10, 2015

2015: Jan. 7–20 • Jan. 17–30
Jan. 27–Feb. 9 • Feb. 6–19

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$12,350
<i>Located on Main Deck with porthole</i>	
Category 2	\$13,280
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 3	\$13,690
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 4	\$14,720
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window</i>	
Category 5	\$17,670
<i>Located on Upper Deck with balcony</i>	
Category 6	\$20,240
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite</i>	
Category 7	\$23,560
<i>Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony</i>	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single cabin pricing, please visit our website. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires is \$1,200, and between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia begins at \$790 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a two-day pre-trip extension in Buenos Aires, a three-day post-trip extension to Iguazú Falls, or a four-day post-trip extension to Easter Island. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2014 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires (a \$1,200 value) on the Nov. 28 and Dec. 8, 2014 departures.

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA, AND THE FALKLANDS

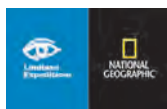


SET OUT ON AN EPIC VOYAGE to the remote lands first explored by Ernest Shackleton. Traveling aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* or the new *National Geographic Orion*, spend five days discovering the Antarctic Peninsula. Stroll through lively crowds of penguins in stunning South Georgia, and hike the shores of the Falkland Islands. Experience boundless wildlife and captivating beauty as you venture into some of the planet's most unspoiled landscapes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Glide in a Zodiac or a kayak past massive icebergs, sculpted by the elements into exquisite formations.**
- **Trace the story of Shackleton's fateful route to South Georgia.**
- **Get immersed in a sea of black and white amid the 200,000-strong king penguin colony in South Georgia.**
- **Visit the outposts of Port Stanley in the Falklands and Port Lockroy in Antarctica.**

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, photographer **Chris Rainier** will join the February 16, 2015 departure. Chris is considered one of today's leading documentary photographers specializing in indigenous cultures. A National Geographic Explorer, he was a co-founder of the Society's All Roads Photography Program, and serves as a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler*. He has won numerous awards for his photography, and was recently named a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in London.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including research examining the effect of global warming on female leopard seals, and climbing expeditions in Antarctica.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina's cosmopolitan capital. Check into our hotel before heading out on an afternoon tour of the city. Gather for a welcome reception.
CAESAR PARK HOTEL/MGALLERY

DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and enjoy lunch on a catamaran cruise of the Beagle Channel. Then set sail on the *National Geographic Explorer* or *National Geographic Orion*. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 AT SEA

Settle in to life aboard the ship as we sail to the Falkland Islands. Keep a lookout for albatrosses and other seabirds that glide along alongside the ship. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 FALKLAND ISLANDS

Dock in Port Stanley, and stroll along streets lined



Sunlight illuminates a dazzling cliff of ice in Antarctica's Iceberg Alley.

with Victorian-style houses. See an archway made of whalebone at the Anglican Cathedral, and visit the Falkland Islands Museum. Hike and kayak along rocky coasts, spotting Magellanic penguins, herds of enormous elephant seals, and the largest albatross colony in the world. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 7-13 AT SEA/SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND

After two days at sea, arrive in South Georgia, renowned for its beauty and wildlife. Visit

Above: In an endless sea of black and white, king penguins cluster on the beaches of South Georgia.

“**South Georgia is the ultimate for pristine scenery and boundless wildlife...**
If doctors told me I had only two weeks to live, I'd spend one week on South Georgia and the other week getting there.”

Brent Houston, “Island of the Kings,”
National Geographic Traveler, October 2009



Watch short videos about this expedition at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video

Hikers mount a snowy rise in Neko Harbor, Antarctica.

ALTERNATE ITINERARY: SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE FALKLANDS

19 Days • 2014: Mar. 7–25

Focus on the wonders of South Georgia and the Falklands on a special voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* that celebrates the islands' spectacular wilderness and distinctive culture. Walk in the footsteps of the legendary Ernest Shackleton on South Georgia; spend more time exploring the pioneer towns and stunning shores of the Falklands; and surround yourself with fascinating wildlife, from hundreds of thousands of penguins to fur seals, albatrosses, and whales. Visit our website for details.

Shackleton's final resting place and wander through the ruins of abandoned whaling stations. Glide in Zodiacs past dramatic cliffs and swirling birds, on the lookout for young Antarctic fur seals. Hike through this breathtaking landscape, and cruise into a remote bay where some 200,000 king penguins crowd the shore. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 14 AND 15 AT SEA

As we head south toward Antarctica, watch for

whales from the ship's bridge, attend talks by our experts, and enjoy the amenities on board. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 16–20 EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

With long hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunity to explore the Antarctic Peninsula and the surrounding islands. In keeping with the nature of an expedition, the schedule is flexible, allowing us to take advantage of the unexpected. We anticipate making several landings each day to hike, kayak among the icebergs, and experience close encounters with wildlife. See the description on pages 96 and 97 for more details on these days on the Antarctic Peninsula. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 21 AND 22 AT SEA

On our final day at sea, enjoy a last chance to view the marine life of these southern waters. Gather to toast our epic voyage at a festive farewell dinner on our final night at sea. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 23 AND 24 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA/ BUENOS AIRES/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia. After lunch and some time to explore Ushuaia, fly to Buenos Aires by private charter. Connect to your flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Nov. 8–Dec. 1
Dec. 26, 2014–Jan. 18, 2015*

2015: Jan. 25–Feb. 17* • Feb. 14–Mar. 9*
Feb. 16–Mar. 1

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Orion*. All other departures are aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*.

The February 2015 departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order, first stopping in Antarctica and ending in the Falkland Islands.

Expedition Cost:	Explorer	Orion
Category 1	\$21,360	\$21,360
Category 2	\$22,890	\$22,890
Category 3	\$23,960	\$25,090
Category 4	\$25,090	\$30,780
Category 5	\$30,780	\$35,520
Category 6	\$35,520	\$41,190
Category 7	\$41,190	

See the descriptions, photos, and deck plans for the *National Geographic Explorer* on page 130 and for the *National Geographic Orion* on page 131. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single cabin pricing, please visit our website. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires is \$1,200, and between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia begins at \$790 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a two-day pre-trip extension in Buenos Aires, a three-day post-trip extension to Iguazú Falls, or a four-day post-trip extension to Easter Island. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2014 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires (a \$1,200 value) on the Nov. 8, 2014 departure.

AROUND THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET



CIRCLE THE GLOBE WITH TOP NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Traveling in the comfort of a private jet, encounter legendary places from Machu Picchu and Tibet to the Taj Mahal and Marrakech. Experience natural wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Serengeti Plain, and the island paradise of Samoa.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore 12 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Machu Picchu, Angkor Wat, the Taj Mahal, and the lost city of Petra.
- Meet with National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence Meave or Louise Leakey in Tanzania.
- Explore Easter Island's giant *moai* statues and famously lost culture with resident archaeologist Edmundo Edwards.
- Delve into the natural world on game drives in the Serengeti Plain and snorkeling excursions on the Great Barrier Reef.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



An Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society, **Wade Davis** holds degrees in anthropology and biology and received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany, all from

Harvard University. He is the author of numerous books including *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest*; and his many film credits include *Light at the Edge of the World*, a documentary series produced for the National Geographic Channel. In 2009 Wade received the Gold Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for his contributions to anthropology and conservation, and in 2011, the Explorers Medal, the highest award of the Explorers' Club. In 2012 he received the Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration.

WADE WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER DEPARTURE ALONG WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER MASSIMO BASSANO AND ART HISTORIAN JACK DAULTON. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR BIOS ON THE FULL EXPEDITION TEAM FOR ALL DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

DAY 1 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

We begin this extraordinary adventure with a welcome reception, followed by dinner at our hotel. THE RITZ-CARLTON ORLANDO, GRANDE LAKES (D)

DAY 2 LIMA, PERU

This morning, our private jet takes us to Lima, once a thriving capital in Spain's New World empire, where we arrive in the late afternoon. Visit the renowned Larco Herrera Museum, and enjoy a fine dinner at our hotel. MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 CUSCO/MACHU PICCHU

Travel to Cusco by local flight, and explore the Plaza de Armas and the Sacsayhuaman fortress overlooking the city. Continue to Machu Picchu, an ancient citadel abandoned by the Inca and rediscovered in 1911. Excavated by Hiram Bingham with funding from National Geographic, Machu Picchu is one of the world's greatest archaeological sites. HOTEL MONASTERIO (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 5 AND 6 EASTER ISLAND, CHILE

Travel 2,300 miles off the coast of Chile to Easter Island, an open-air museum of ancient stone villages, sanctuaries, and giant statues called *moai*. Explore the island's treasures with resident archaeologist Edmundo Edwards. HANGAROA ECO VILLAGE & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 CROSS THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Depart for Samoa and lose a day crossing the international date line. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 APIA, SAMOA

Trace the coast on a scenic drive, passing through charming seaside villages. Enjoy a traditional Polynesian feast and a *fia fia*, a colorful performance of Samoan dance and song. AGGIE GREY'S LAGOON BEACH RESORT & SPA (B, L, D)

DAYS 9 AND 10 THE GREAT BARRIER REEF OR DAINTREE RAIN FOREST, AUSTRALIA

Explore the Great Barrier Reef, the largest known coral reef in the world and home to an exceptionally rich variety of marine life. Enjoy

Above inset photographs, left to right: The ancient and awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu; a Cambodian *apsara* dancer in traditional costume; sunlight highlights a regal lion in the savanna. Background photograph: Tibet's extraordinary Potala Palace glows against the slopes of the Himalaya.



The architectural splendor of India's Taj Mahal is mirrored in a reflecting pool.

bird-watching, snorkeling, and swimming in this magnificent marine ecosystem. Or you may discover the natural wonders of the Daintree Rain Forest. PULLMAN PORT DOUGLAS SEA TEMPLE RESORT & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11 AND 12 ANGKOR, CAMBODIA

Fly to Siem Reap and transfer to Angkor. Survey Angkor Wat's massive temple complex, and visit the royal city of Angkor Thom and the extraordinary Bayon Temple. RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL D'ANGKOR (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 13 CHENGDU, CHINA

Travel to Chengdu, where we visit the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center and stay overnight before flying to Tibet. SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, CHENGDU (B, L, D)

DAYS 14 AND 15 LHASA, TIBET OR XI'AN, CHINA

Depart by local flight to Lhasa. Visit the Jokhang Temple, the region's oldest and most revered temple, and explore the colorful Tibetan markets. The next day, visit the fabled Potala



Massive moai dwarf a traveler on Easter Island.



Palace and the nearly 600-year-old Sera Monastery. Alternatively, you may choose to travel to Xi'an, China to view the famous terracotta warriors. THE ST. REGIS LHASA RESORT OR THE WESTIN XIAN (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 16 AND 17 TAJ MAHAL, AGRA, INDIA

Return to Chengdu by local flight and continue on our private jet to Agra. See the majestic Taj Mahal, one of the world's greatest monuments to love. THE OBEROI AMARVILÁS (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 18 AND 19 TANZANIA

Fly to Kilimanjaro Airport and choose from two options: go deep into Serengeti National Park to witness the greatest concentration of plains game in Africa; or descend into the Ngorongoro Crater and observe the permanent population of about 25,000 animals in the largest unbroken caldera in the world. National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Meave or Louise Leakey joins us to discuss the family's historic fossil finds. FOUR SEASONS SAFARI LODGE SERENGETI OR NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 20 AND 21 PETRA, JORDAN

Visit Petra, the lost city of the Nabataeans. Hidden in Jordan's deep canyons south of the Dead Sea, this remarkable site was founded more than 2,000 years ago, and consists of elaborate buildings and tombs carved from sheer rock walls. Gather for a festive Bedouin dinner this evening. MÖVENPICK PETRA, JORDAN (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 22 AND 23 MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Arrive in Marrakech and transfer to our hotel. The next day, see the Koutoubia Mosque and visit the Bahia Palace. Wander through the medina and the open-air market of Djemaa el Fna, or take a stroll

in the stunning Majorelle Garden. Tonight, gather for a festive farewell banquet with traditional entertainment. LA MAMOUNIA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 24 MARRAKECH, MOROCCO/ORLANDO

Fly by private jet to Orlando and connect with your flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Dec. 28, 2014–Jan. 20, 2015

2015: Jan. 22–Feb. 14 • Oct. 2–25*
Oct. 27–Nov. 19*

**These departures follow the itinerary shown but begin and end in Washington, D.C., with a welcome reception at National Geographic Society headquarters.*

Expedition Cost:

Dec. 2014	\$70,950
Jan. 2015	\$72,950
Oct. 2015	\$73,950

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,650. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to and from Orlando, Florida or Washington, D.C. is not included.

Please note: There is a \$2,500 per-person deposit for this trip. See our website for specific terms and conditions.

Fly by Private Jet:

Our specially outfitted Boeing 757 is ideally suited for this extraordinary expedition. Its long-range capabilities and ability to land in smaller airports afford us unmatched flexibility. We set our own schedules, flying direct and avoiding layovers, which gives us the freedom to make the most of our adventures on land. Instead of the standard 233 seats, the jet's interior has been customized and refitted to accommodate just 77 passengers in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.

WILDLIFE OF THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET



SET OFF ON THE ULTIMATE WILDLIFE ADVENTURE with top National Geographic experts and encounter an incredible array of the world's legendary creatures. As we explore Rwanda, Borneo, Madagascar, and more, our zoologists, naturalists, and conservationists share their insights on endangered animals, and on the research and fieldwork underway to help ensure their survival for generations to come.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meet National Geographic Explorers Sylvia Earle, Mike Fay, Krithi Karanth, Luke Dollar, and more.**
- **Observe extraordinary wildlife, from mountain gorillas and orangutans to leopards, giant pandas, and countless birds.**
- **Explore Rwanda's lush volcanoes, the azure lagoons of the Maldives, and the foothills of the snow-capped Himalaya.**
- **Learn techniques for capturing stunning wildlife shots with one of the world's great wildlife photographers.**

ITINERARY | 23 DAYS

OCTOBER 25 AND 26 U.S./JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Depart the U.S. independently on an overnight flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel and gather for a welcome reception and dinner. **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL WESTCLIFF JOHANNESBURG (D)**

OCTOBER 27, 28, AND 29 RWANDA: MOUNTAIN GORILLAS OR CHIMPANZEES

Board our private jet for the flight to Rwanda, where we set out on a thrilling trek through bamboo forests to find and observe mountain gorillas. Learn about these endangered creatures from National Geographic Emerging Explorer Elizabeth Lonsdorf. As an alternative, go on a hike in Nyungwe National Park to see chimpanzees, or fly by helicopter over the Virunga volcanoes and visit the Akilah Institute for Women, an inspiring vocational education and leadership program. **KIGALI SERENA HOTEL; MOUNTAIN GORILLA VIEW LODGE OR NYUNGWE FOREST LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)**

OCTOBER 30, 31, AND NOVEMBER 1 THE MALDIVES: TURTLES, DOLPHINS, AND CORAL REEFS

The island paradise of the Maldives is surrounded by lagoons filled with coral reef systems that teem with marine life. Go snorkeling in this dazzling underwater world, on the lookout for several sea turtle species. Then take a cruise to see spinner dolphins dance on the water. Dive or snorkel with National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Sylvia Earle, who will discuss her efforts to restore health and productivity to the oceans by promoting the creation of marine protected areas. **SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)**

NOVEMBER 2 AND 3 MALAYSIAN BORNEO: ORANGUTANS AND PROBOSCIS MONKEYS

Our flight to Borneo lands in Sandakan, our base for excursions into the island's lush tropical wilderness. Come face-to-face with orangutans at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in the Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve. Then glide along the Kinabatangan River as it wends its way

through the mangroves of Abai Forest Reserve, searching for the elusive and endangered proboscis monkey, named for its protruding nose. Explore the reserves with field biologist and National Geographic wildlife photojournalist Tim Laman, who landed his first *National Geographic* magazine assignment working in the rain forests of Borneo. **FOUR POINTS SHERATON, SANDAKAN (B, L, D DAILY)**

NOVEMBER 4 AND 5 CHINA: GIANT PANDAS

Fly to Chengdu and transfer to Dujiangyan where we step behind the scenes at the brand new giant panda medical research and treatment facility to encounter captive pandas up close. Conservationist and National Geographic grantee Marc Brody will facilitate a visit to see first-hand the latest scientific breakthroughs in the care and breeding of captive pandas, the rehabilitation of injured and rescued wild pandas, and the reintroduction of captive-born pandas into the wild. **SIX SENSES QING CHENG MOUNTAIN (B, L, D DAILY)**

**The best-available accommodations in these destinations are smaller boutique-style lodges, camps, and hotels. The group will be divided among these properties in order to ensure that every guest can enjoy prime access to local sites.*

Above, clockwise from top left: A languid leopard gazes out from its perch; a panda cub props itself up on its paws; a majestic lion blends into golden grasses; a green sea turtle swims in the Maldives; Borneo's unusual proboscis monkey watches over the forest.

NOVEMBER 6, 7, AND 8 NEPAL: ELEPHANTS, RHINOS, AND TIGERS

Our private jet soars over the Himalaya to Kathmandu, Nepal, where we transfer to smaller aircraft to venture deep into Nepal's southern Terai region. Ride Asian elephants through the jungle in search of the area's fascinating wildlife, including one-horned rhinos, gray langurs, civets, sloth bears, sambar, and the elusive Bengal tiger. Join National Geographic Emerging Explorer Krithi Karanth for a discussion about her work on strategies to help endangered wildlife and humans coexist. Return to Kathmandu and visit the iconic Bodhnath stupa, which has drawn pilgrims for centuries. **TIGER TOPS KARNALI LODGE OR KASARA JUNGLE RESORT,* AND DWARIKA'S HOTEL, KATHMANDU (B, L, D DAILY)**

NOVEMBER 9, 10, AND 11 MADAGASCAR: LEMURS

Our next stop is beautiful Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean that is home to a staggering array of unique flora and fauna. At least 80 to 90 percent of the endemic species here—including its celebrated lemurs—are found nowhere else on Earth. After a leisurely evening in the capital, Antananarivo, take a local morning flight to one of the country's pristine wildlife reserves. National Geographic Emerging Explorer Luke Dollar will share stories of his work with Madagascar's lemurs and their predators the fossas, and discuss effective conservation strategies. **CARLTON HOTEL AND VARIOUS LODGES* (B, L, D DAILY)**

NOVEMBER 12, 13, AND 14 SOUTH AFRICA: THE "BIG FIVE"

Return to South Africa and transfer to smaller aircraft to fly to the exclusive Sabi Sand Game Reserve, adjacent to Kruger National Park. Embark on game drives in private wildlife reserves in the morning and at night for a chance to see the "big



Long arms slung around its mother's neck, a young orangutan hitches a ride.



five" as well as giraffes, cheetahs, hippos, zebras, and so much more. Meet National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Mike Fay, whose decades of work to document and conserve wildlife in Africa includes the 2,000-mile Megatransect trek across central Africa and the Africa Megaflyover, an aerial survey of the entire African continent. **SINGITA BOULDERS LODGE, SINGITA EBONY LODGE, OR LONDOLOZI, SABI SAND GAME RESERVE* (B, L, D DAILY)**

NOVEMBER 15 AND 16 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA/U.S.

Take a charter flight to Johannesburg, where we enjoy a farewell lunch. Then connect to your commercial flight home, arriving the following day. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:
2014: Oct. 25–Nov. 16

Expedition Cost: **\$69,950**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,650. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to and from Johannesburg, South Africa, is not included.

Please Note: there is a \$2,500 per person deposit for this trip. See our website for specific terms and conditions.

Fly by Private Jet:

Our specially outfitted Boeing 757 is ideally suited for this extraordinary expedition. Its long-range capabilities and ability to land in smaller airports afford us unmatched flexibility. We set our own schedules, fly direct, and avoid layovers, which gives us the freedom to make the most of our adventures on land. Instead of the standard 233 seats, the jet's interior has been customized and refitted to accommodate just 76 passengers in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

Marc Brody
Panda conservationist and National Geographic grantee who will join us in China



Luke Dollar
Conservation scientist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will join us in Madagascar



Sylvia Earle
Oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in the Maldives



Mike Fay
Conservationist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in South Africa



Rob Hernandez
Wildlife ecologist and *National Geographic* magazine veteran who will accompany the entire expedition



Krithi Karanth
Conservation biologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will join us in Nepal



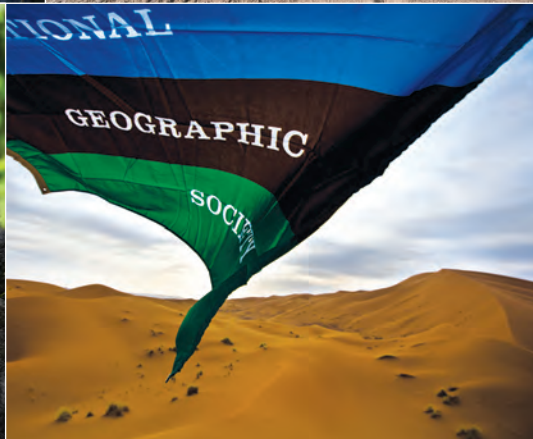
Tim Laman
Biologist and National Geographic photographer who will accompany the entire expedition



Elizabeth Lonsdorf
Primatologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will join us in Rwanda

PLEASE NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL 1-800-224-1894.

CELEBRATING EXPLORATION WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC: A JOURNEY BY PRIVATE JET



JOIN US FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION celebrating the past, present, and future of exploration at National Geographic. Eleven of today's most accomplished explorers join us in spectacular places to share insights into their groundbreaking research and fieldwork. Encounter wildlife in Palau and Rwanda, step back in time in Oman and Laos, and get immersed in enchanting cultures in Bhutan and Botswana's Kalahari Desert on the adventure of a lifetime.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meet National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence** Spencer Wells, Wade Davis, Sylvia Earle, and many more.
- **Encounter extraordinary wildlife, including the Big Five in Botswana, the Maldives' manta rays, Rwanda's gorillas, and jellyfish among Palau's "Floating Gardens."**
- **Discover the cultures of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Buddhist people of Laos, and the San bushmen of the Kalahari Desert.**

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

FEBRUARY 15 AND 16 U.S./LONDON, ENGLAND

Depart the U.S. independently on an overnight flight to London. The following day, gather for a welcome reception and dinner at our hotel. **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LONDON AT PARK LANE (D)**

FEBRUARY 17 AND 18 MUSCAT, OMAN

Fly to the Sultanate of Oman. Explore the vibrant capital city of Muscat, and meet archaeologist and National Geographic Fellow Fred Hiebert. Fred curated an exhibit on ancient treasure ships, including the recreation of the *Jewel of Muscat*, which was supported by National Geographic Channels International and sailed to Singapore in 2010. **AL BUSTAN PALACE, A RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)**

FEBRUARY 19, 20, AND 21 PARO AND THIMPHU, BHUTAN

Fly by private jet to Kathmandu, Nepal, where we spend the night. After breakfast, take a local flight

to Bhutan. Explore this peaceful Himalayan kingdom with anthropologist and Explorer-in-Residence Johan Reinhard, who will share his research on Tibetan Buddhism and remote Himalayan tribes. See the great Paro Dzong and witness a prayer ceremony at the Choeding Temple. Then visit the National Memorial Chorten and the Textile Museum in Thimphu, or hike up to the spectacular Tiger's Nest Monastery. **DWARIKA'S HOTEL, KATHMANDU; ZHIWA LING OR UMA BY COMO, PARO* (B, L, D DAILY)**

FEBRUARY 22 AND 23 ROCK ISLANDS, PALAU

Fly by local charter to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where we reconnect with our private jet for the flight to Palau. Explore Palau's spectacular Rock Islands, composed of hundreds of mushroom-shaped islets. Meet with marine biologist, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, and vice president of National Geographic Mission Programs Greg Marshall, whose Crittercam and other remote-imaging systems make it possible to see the world

through the eyes of its wildlife. Dive or snorkel among these "floating gardens," or swim with hundreds of harmless jellyfish. **PALAU PACIFIC RESORT (B, L, D DAILY)**

FEBRUARY 24 AND 25 LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

Anthropologist and Explorer-in-Residence Wade Davis introduces the cultural riches of the enchanting city of Luang Prabang. Visit renowned Buddhist temples and the National Museum at the former Royal Palace. Then cruise the Mekong River to the cave temples of Pak Ou, home to thousands of lacquered and gilded Buddha figures. **LA RÉSIDENCE PHOU VAO OR AMANTAKA, LUANG PRABANG* (B, L, D DAILY)**

FEBRUARY 26, 27, AND 28 THE MALDIVES

In this island paradise, meet pioneering oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Sylvia Earle, founder of Mission Blue, a global marine conservation initiative. Learn about Hope Spots—vital marine ecosystems—and the

**The best available accommodations in these destinations are smaller boutique-style lodges, camps, and hotels. The group will be divided between these properties in order to ensure that every guest can enjoy prime access to local sites.*

Above, clockwise from top left: Tiger's Nest Monastery in Bhutan; Explorer-in-Residence Spencer Wells in the field; the National Geographic Society flag catches the wind; Rwanda's mountain gorillas.

unique ecosystem of the Maldives. Dive, snorkel, or swim in lagoons teeming with fish, and perhaps see a manta ray breach the water's surface. SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

MARCH 1 AND 2 SELINDA RESERVE, BOTSWANA

Botswana offers incredible wildlife viewing and bird-watching. Here, we'll meet Explorers-in-Residence Dereck and Beverly Joubert,** the award-winning filmmakers and conservationists who established National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative. Embark on game drives to spot lions, hippos, cheetahs, zebras, giraffes, cape buffalo, and elephants. Learn how the local community has become involved in conservation efforts. SELINDA TENTED CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

MARCH 3 AND 4 KALAHARI DESERT, BOTSWANA

The vast, arid expanse of the Kalahari Desert is home to the San bushmen, members of one of the longest surviving cultures in the world. Go trekking with local bushmen, and discuss their legacy with National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Spencer Wells. JACK'S CAMP, TAU PAN CAMP, OR KALAHARI PLAINS CAMP* (B, L, D DAILY)

MARCH 5, 6, AND 7 VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, RWANDA

Hike through bamboo forests in search of Rwanda's mountain gorillas, and meet with primatologist and Emerging Explorer Mireya Mayor, whose work with Africa's lowland gorilla population has contributed to important conservation measures. Or fly by helicopter over the Virunga volcanoes and visit the inspiring Akilah Institute



The limestone tufts of Palau's Rock Islands support a staggering array of coral, fish, and marine mammal species.



for Women. Meet in Kigali with National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Louise Leakey to discuss her family's historic fossil finds. KIGALI SERENA HOTEL and MOUNTAIN GORILLA VIEW LODGE* (B, L, D DAILY)

MARCH 8 AND 9 BARCELONA, SPAIN

In the Mediterranean city of Barcelona, marvel at architectural gems, including Gaudí's masterpiece Sagrada Família. Stroll the Passeig de Gràcia, lined with old and new houses, and explore the Mercat de la Boqueria with a local chef. This evening, gather for a gala farewell dinner. EL PALACE HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)

MARCH 10 BARCELONA/LONDON, ENGLAND/ U.S.

Return by private jet to London, and transfer to your commercial flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Feb. 15–Mar. 10

Expedition Cost:

\$76,950

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,950. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to and from London is not included.

Please note: There is a \$2,500 per person deposit for this trip. See our website for specific terms and conditions.

Fly by Private Jet:

Our specially outfitted Boeing 757 is ideally suited for this extraordinary expedition. Its long-range capabilities and ability to land in smaller airports afford us unmatched flexibility. We set our own schedules, flying direct and avoiding layovers, which gives us the freedom to make the most of our adventures on land. Instead of the standard 233 seats, the jet's interior has been customized and refitted to accommodate just 74 passengers in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS



Wade Davis

Anthropologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in Laos



Sylvia Earle

Oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in the Maldives



Fred Hiebert

Archaeologist and National Geographic Fellow who will join us in Oman



Dereck and Beverly Joubert**

Award-winning filmmakers and National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence who hope to join us in Botswana



Bob Krist

National Geographic photographer who will accompany the entire expedition



Louise Leakey

Paleontologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in Rwanda



Greg Marshall

Marine biologist, filmmaker, and vice president with National Geographic Mission Programs who will join us in Palau



Mireya Mayor

Primatologist, National Geographic Emerging Explorer, and Nat Geo WILD host who will join us in Rwanda



Johan Reinhard

Anthropologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in Bhutan



Spencer Wells

Geneticist, anthropologist, and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will accompany the entire expedition

***Dereck and Beverly Joubert are hoping to join the expedition in Botswana, and will confirm their participation once their schedule is finalized.*

PLEASE NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL 1-800-224-1894.

WEEKEND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS



HONE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS WITH A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

over a long weekend in one of the country's most picturesque cities. Learn to take magazine-quality photos through field assignments, daily edit-and-critique sessions, and the insights of our experts. Explore techniques and perspectives that will enhance your visual storytelling ability. Each workshop concludes with a presentation of the group's best images. These workshops—each led by a National Geographic photographer and a professional instructor—are designed for amateurs who are interested in improving their digital photography.

All participants must bring a digital SLR camera, a laptop computer, and software for organizing and presenting images. Each workshop is limited to 25 participants.

NEW YORK CITY

Brimming with towering skyscrapers, historic parks, vibrant ethnic enclaves, and the colorful bustle of street life, New York City presents photographers with an endless array of subjects. Photograph the environs of Ground Zero and Battery Park City with its views of the iconic Statue of Liberty. Catch the sunset from the top of Rockefeller Center, and photograph the iconic Brooklyn Bridge. Complete a portrait assignment in the lively neighborhoods of Chinatown and Little Italy, then head to our state-of-the-art classroom to learn about photo technique, exposure, lighting, and composition.

Optional Accommodations: New York Marriott Downtown

4 Days • 2014: Apr. 24–27 • May 15–18
Jun. 12–15 • Sep. 18–21
Oct. 2–5 • Oct. 23–26

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,445*

ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP IN NEW YORK CITY

4 Days • 2014: Oct. 16–19



Joe McNally, a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine, will lead this advanced workshop. See our website for additional details.

SAN FRANCISCO

Elegant row houses, diverse neighborhoods, and dramatically undulating streets make San Francisco a particularly photogenic city. On daily assignments, photograph merchants hawking their exotic goods in bustling Chinatown, and go on a shoot in the ethnic neighborhood of North Beach. In Russian Hill, capture graceful Victorian homes that line the steep streets and views of winding Lombard Street and Alcatraz. Learn how to enhance your photos, and take advantage of daily edit-and-critique sessions with your instructors.

Optional Accommodations: Prescott Hotel

4 Days • 2014: Mar. 6–9 • Jun. 19–22
Aug. 21–24 • Oct. 23–26

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,275*



SEATTLE

In Seattle, rolling streets swoop down to a bustling waterfront, markets and musicians bring spirit to the sidewalks, and Elliott Bay lies blue and serene against a backdrop of skyscrapers and snow-clad peaks. This collage of contrasting heights, colors, and rhythms makes the city a fantastic place to photograph. Spend a long weekend capturing images at the historic Pike Place Market and the eclectic Capitol Hill neighborhood, and get a new angle on the iconic Space Needle.

Optional Accommodations: Seattle Marriott Waterfront

4 Days • 2014: Jul. 10–13 • Aug. 14–17
Sep. 25–28

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,275*



Clockwise from top left: Sunlight floods the scene from New York's Brooklyn Bridge; a New Orleans jazzman leans into the rhythm; the stunning Miraval Resort and Spa; bright tulips set off the historic Capitol in Washington, D.C.; a neon sign is reflected at Seattle's Pike Place Market; one of San Francisco's signature trolley cars shuttles down the street.



NEW ORLEANS

From its French-influenced architecture to the jazz bands that fill the streets with swirling rhythms, New Orleans' lively blend of cultures makes it a compelling photography destination. Take to the streets of the French Quarter with your camera, capturing timeless streetcars, balconies tangled with flowers, and the mimes of Jackson Square. Catch the early morning atmosphere at the legendary Café Du Monde and the French Market. Photograph a historic cemetery, and document the nightlife on Bourbon Street.

Optional Accommodations: *Bourbon New Orleans Hotel or Dauphine Orleans Hotel*

4 Days • 2014: Mar. 6–9 • Mar. 27–30
Oct. 9–12 • Nov. 13–16

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,175*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington, D.C. is home to evocative memorials, neoclassic architecture, beautiful parks, and eclectic neighborhoods. Head out on daily shoots to photograph scenes of Eastern Market coming to life in the morning's first light; the stately architecture of Dupont Circle or the hip, ethnically diverse Adams Morgan neighborhood; and the majestic monuments of the National Mall. Go behind the scenes at National Geographic's headquarters to meet with magazine staff and learn how the photographic process works at the Society.

Optional Accommodations: *Topaz Hotel*

4 Days • 2014: Mar. 20–23 • May 8–11
Sep. 18–21 • Oct. 23–26

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,145*



TUCSON

Learn new skills in the warm shade of Arizona's Santa Catalina Mountains during a unique photo retreat at the acclaimed Miraval Resort and Spa. On daily excursions, photograph stunning mountain vistas and the stark beauty of the Sonoran Desert. During a private evening performance, capture the unique shapes of a Navajo hoop dancer or the sweeping motions of a Folklórico dancer. Then enjoy the fabulous spa facilities; invigorating outdoor activities; and fresh, healthy cuisine at the all-inclusive Miraval Resort.

Accommodations: *Miraval Resort and Spa*

4 Days • 2014: Mar. 27–30 • Apr. 24–27
Sep. 4–7 • Oct. 23–26 • Dec. 4–7

Cost: \$2,495**

****Workshop cost includes accommodations, all meals, and a credit of \$150 per person toward additional spa and resort services of your choice.**



**Note: All prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available.*

Welcome and farewell dinners are included.

For day-by-day itineraries for these workshops or to reserve space, go to nationalgeographicexpeditions.com or call 1-866-797-4686.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS NEW YORK CITY



Bob Sacha is an award-winning multimedia producer, documentary filmmaker, and editor. A contributing photographer at *National Geographic* magazine, he has covered assignments from New York City to Easter Island.

BOB WILL LEAD THE APRIL, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER 23 NEW YORK CITY WORKSHOPS.

SAN FRANCISCO



Catherine Karnow is a regular contributor to *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. Her story on San Francisco, her hometown, appeared in the magazine in 2006.

CATHERINE WILL LEAD ALL OF THE SAN FRANCISCO WORKSHOPS.

SEATTLE



Seattle-based photographer **Aaron Huey** has shot more than 20 stories for *National Geographic* publications, and his work has also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *Smithsonian*.

AARON WILL LEAD THE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER SEATTLE WORKSHOPS.

NEW ORLEANS



Tyrone Turner is an award-winning photojournalist. A native of New Orleans, he has photographed the city for several *National Geographic* magazine articles, including "New Orleans: A Perilous Future."

TYRONE WILL LEAD ALL OF THE NEW ORLEANS WORKSHOPS.

TUCSON



Award-winning photographer **Nevada Wier** has captured countless images of the American Southwest. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *National Geographic* magazine as well as many books.

NEVADA WILL LEAD THE MARCH TUCSON WORKSHOP.

WASHINGTON, D.C.



A resident of Washington, D.C., **Mark Thiessen** has been shooting for *National Geographic* since 1990. He has covered subjects in *National Geographic* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*.

MARK WILL LEAD THE MAY AND SEPTEMBER WASHINGTON, D.C. WORKSHOPS.

Visit our website for experts leading other workshop dates.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS



IMAGINE FOCUSING YOUR CAMERA LENS ON AN ICONIC MONUMENT IN PARIS or cowboys wrangling horses in Wyoming, and stopping before you shoot to ask advice from a National Geographic photographer. This is the beauty of our photo workshops: you have real-time access to some of the world's best photographers in the classroom and in the field. On our longer workshops, you practice their techniques on daily shoots, benefit from their critiques of your images, see a visually rich place from their perspective, and soak up their passion for photography. Through the hands-on instruction and personal insights of one of our top photographers, you'll build your skills as a photographer and visual storyteller.

All participants must bring a digital SLR camera, a laptop computer, and software for organizing and presenting images. Each workshop is limited to 25 participants.

LONDON

International and historic, elegant and avant-garde, London is one of the most visually exciting cities in the world. Settle into our hotel in fashionable Kensington and set off to capture London's palpable energy. Photograph bustling Billingsgate fish market and iconic Portobello Road. Stroll through serene gardens and delve into the ethnic neighborhoods of the East End to shoot portraits and street scenes. Spend a day in Brighton, documenting architecture both eccentric and quaint, and get a new perspective on the Tower of London and Trafalgar Square. The workshop includes two group dinners and one lunch.

Optional Accommodations: *The Kensington Hotel*

7 Days • 2014: May 7–13 • Oct. 22–28

Cost without hotel: \$3,595

Cost with hotel: \$4,795*



ROME

Rome is endowed with an incomparable combination of color and light, monuments and sculptures that have defined the history of art, and a gusto for the good life that's palpable. For a photographer, the effect is pure magic. Immerse yourself in Rome's vibrant spirit, setting out on shoots from our beautiful Art Deco-style hotel on the fashionable Via Veneto. Delve into the colorful markets of Porta Portese with your camera in hand, and explore Vatican City on a photo shoot. Capture everyday life on the Spanish Steps, and frame the legendary ruins of the Colosseum in the glow of the late afternoon sun. The workshop includes two group dinners and one lunch.

Optional Accommodations: *Regina Hotel Baglioni*

7 Days • 2014: Mar. 12–18 • Nov. 12–18

Cost without hotel: \$3,395

Cost with hotel: \$4,715*



PARIS

Packed with iconic monuments, architecture both elegant and eclectic, and neighborhoods that seem effortlessly picturesque, Paris is a veritable feast for the camera. Catch the romance, elegance, and special light of Paris on assignments to famous landmarks and hidden corners of the city. Photograph bustling street life and vivid markets, historic squares and boulevards, and serene gardens. Capture the early morning light around Jardin du Luxembourg and the Eiffel Tower, and the Panthéon at twilight. Focus on the architecture and gardens of Versailles and explore the Seine River by boat. The workshop includes two group dinners and one lunch.

Optional Accommodations: *Hotel Bedford*

7 Days • 2014: Apr. 9–15 • Oct. 1–7

Cost without hotel: \$3,495

Cost with hotel: \$4,760*





SANTA FE

Since the days of Ansel Adams, photographers have been drawn to Santa Fe's vivid textures and colors; its radiant light; and its unique blend of Spanish, Native American, and Wild West flavors. Join a top photographer in this picturesque city and learn to capture light and frame images that tell a story. Photograph cubic adobe homes against a deep blue sky, go on a photo shoot amid the mesas and buttes near Georgia O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch, and spend an afternoon taking portraits of cowboys and their horses at a nearby ranch. The workshop includes two dinners and three lunches.

Optional Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza

5 Days • 2014: May 13–17 • Jul. 15–19

Oct. 14–18

Cost without hotel: \$1,995**

Cost with hotel: \$2,570* **

****Applicable New Mexico sales tax is additional.**

WYOMING'S COWBOY COUNTRY

Capture the essence of a uniquely American culture during a photography workshop in Wyoming's cowboy country with National Geographic photographer Jay Dickman. From our base at the beautiful CM Ranch, get ensconced in the traditions of the Wild West, photographing wranglers at work, horse drives, and lasso-tossing cowboys. Work on portraiture during photo sessions with cowboys, and shoot images of horses galloping across the sage-brush fields against the red hills of the Badlands. Then head behind the scenes to document the excitement of a Friday night rodeo. The workshop includes all meals.

Accommodations: CM Ranch

7 Days • 2014: Jun. 22–28 • Jun. 29–Jul. 5

Cost: \$3,995*

**Note: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available.*

The single and double rate is the same for our Wyoming workshop.

The hotel cost includes breakfast each morning in addition to the meals listed.

For day-by-day itineraries for these workshops or to reserve space, go to nationalgeographicexpeditions.com or call 1-866-797-4686.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

LONDON



Gianluca Colla has traveled and photographed around the world, from the Arctic Circle to Africa's deserts and from the Amazon to the streets of London. His work has been published in *National Geographic* magazine, *Condé Nast*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*.

GIANLUCA WILL LEAD THE MAY LONDON WORKSHOP.

ROME



Photojournalist **Massimo Bassano** has published his work in *National Geographic Traveler* and on the National Geographic website, as well as in numerous European publications. His acclaimed photography book *The Color of Silence* detailed the 12 weeks he spent in a little-known Italian monastery.

MASSIMO WILL LEAD BOTH OF THE ROME WORKSHOPS.

PARIS



Sisse Brimberg and **Cotton Coulson** have collectively photographed more than 60 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. They have spent most of their careers working in Europe, and have been awarded multiple prizes for their photography.

SISSE AND COTTON WILL LEAD THE APRIL PARIS WORKSHOP.

SANTA FE



A climber and visual storyteller, **Cory Richards** was named National Geographic Adventurer of the Year in 2012. His photography has appeared in *National Geographic* magazine, *Outside*, and the *New York Times*.

CORY WILL LEAD THE MAY SANTA FE WORKSHOP.

WYOMING'S COWBOY COUNTRY



Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Jay Dickman** has worked in photojournalism for more than 40 years, and completed more than 25 assignments for *National Geographic*.

A popular photo instructor, he has covered topics around the world and throughout the American West.

JAY WILL LEAD BOTH OF THE WYOMING WORKSHOPS.

Visit our website for experts leading other workshops.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS



TAKE YOUR CAMERA ON THE ROAD, discovering stunning destinations alongside some of the best photographers in the world. Set out on photo shoots with a National Geographic photographer in the sacred temples of Japan or the extraordinary landscapes of the Himalaya. Capture images of whirling dervishes in Turkey or of exotic birds in the cloud forest of Colombia. Whether you're snapping portraits of traditional tribespeople in Ethiopia or framing the giant tortoises of the Galápagos, you'll learn techniques from photographers who are passionate about travel and their craft.

Our photography expeditions are designed for photographers of all skill and experience levels. While they follow the itineraries found elsewhere in this catalog or on our website, daily activities have been adjusted to maximize photographic opportunities through sunset or sunrise shoots, photo walks, and portrait sessions.

TURKEY

From the gleaming ruins of Ephesus to the vibrant markets of Bodrum, Turkey is exceptionally picturesque. Uncover the country's rich cultural legacy on visits to palaces, mosques, and bazaars in Istanbul. Enjoy a rare opportunity to photograph whirling dervishes during a private performance, and capture the glowing moonscape of Cappadocia at sunset. Shoot portraits of local farmers, artists, and families as you soak up daily life.

See page 42 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

11 Days • 2014: Apr. 24–May 4 • Oct. 9–19

Expedition Cost: \$6,195

Internal Airfare: \$650

CHINA

China's combination of epic monuments, natural beauty, and striking modern architecture make it a magical photographic destination. In Beijing, set out to photograph the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and historic neighborhoods. Frame close-ups of Xi'an's terra-cotta warriors from the site's VIP platform. Experience the beautiful karst landscapes near Guilin, and document rural life during planting or harvest time. Cap off your journey in dazzling Shanghai.

See our website for a day-by-day itinerary.

14 Days • 2014: May 10–23 • Sep. 13–26

Expedition Cost: \$7,495

Internal Airfare: \$690

GALÁPAGOS

The legendary creatures of the Galápagos make for an incredible photographic experience. Join our National Geographic photographer and team of experts on the *National Geographic Endeavour*, and learn new photography as you photograph the scarlet shells of scampering Sally Lightfoot crabs, the craggy silhouettes of marine iguanas against the surf, and the volcano-sculpted landscapes that they inhabit.

See page 26 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

**10 Days • 2014: Jun. 13–22 • Jun. 20–29
Oct. 24–Nov. 2 • Oct. 31–Nov. 9**

Expedition Cost: from \$5,490

Internal Airfare: \$450



ETHIOPIA new

Between its ancient wonders and its vibrant ethnic traditions, Ethiopia presents a rare chance for photographers to document fascinating cultures barely touched by the centuries. In the Omo River Valley, meet and photograph diverse peoples who distinguish themselves with elaborate body paint, scarification, and lip plates. Frame bustling market scenes, and train your lens on the exquisite underground churches of Lalibela.

See page 82 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

**14 Days • 2014: Sep. 15–28
2015: Jan. 9–22**

Expedition Cost: \$7,695

Internal Airfare: \$650



SILK ROAD new

As the Silk Road wends its way through Central Asia, it passes sweeping mountain landscapes, oasis towns built from mud several millennia ago, and modern cities clad in marble and gold. Traveling on the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express*, record the legacy of this fabled trade route from the mystical expanses of the Karakum Desert to the azure-tiled domes of Bukhara and Samarkand. Go on photo shoots in ancient Nisa and Merv, and photograph timeless scenes of merchants haggling in adobe-lined streets. Capture sunset over the rust-colored rooftops of fabled Khiva.

See page 56 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

14 Days • 2014: Oct. 28–Nov. 10
Expedition Cost: from \$17,995

MONGOLIA

Home to sweeping landscapes and a nomadic culture that pre-dates the age of Genghis Khan, Mongolia offers a stunning array of photographic opportunities. Travel through the vast steppe to photograph crystal-clear alpine lakes, traditional *ger* camps, and camel-herding families. Catch the towering dunes of the Gobi at sunrise and the brilliant Flaming Cliffs at sunset, and spend a thrilling day documenting the colorful contests of a private Naadam demonstration.

See our website for a day-by-day itinerary.

14 Days • 2014: Jun. 13–26 • Jul. 25–Aug. 7
Expedition Cost: \$6,495
Internal Airfare: \$900

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy.

MOROCCO

Experience the diverse landscapes of Morocco, from cool mountain forests and coastal towns to rocky outcrops that rise out of lush oases. With your camera in hand, discover the enchanting cities of Marrakech and Fez, venture into rose-colored kasbahs, and snap portraits of traditional Berber families in their mountain villages. Photograph the ancient adobe village of Aït Benhaddou lit up by the late afternoon sun, and ride into the Sahara on a camel to capture the sun setting on the dunes.

See page 84 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

11 Days • 2014: May 9–19 • Oct. 3–13 • Oct. 15–25
Expedition Cost: \$5,875



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

TURKEY



One of the first female photographers to work for National Geographic, **Annie Griffiths** has published dozens of articles and books for the Society. She has photographed more than 100 countries, and has received numerous awards.

ANNIE WILL LEAD THE OCTOBER TURKEY PHOTO EXPEDITION.

CHINA



Photographer **Greg Girard** lived in China for more than 20 years and covered Asia's transformation for numerous publications, including *National Geographic* magazine, and *TIME*.

GREG WILL LEAD BOTH CHINA PHOTO EXPEDITIONS.

GALÁPAGOS

Annie Griffiths will lead the June 20 Galápagos Photography Expedition. See her bio above.

ETHIOPIA



National Geographic Society Explorer **Chris Rainier** is a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler* and the photographer and a co-director for the Society's Enduring Voices

Project, which documents endangered cultures.

CHRIS WILL LEAD BOTH ETHIOPIA PHOTO EXPEDITIONS.

SILK ROAD



Photographer **Matthieu Paley** has been working in the western Himalaya for more than ten years. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *National Geographic* magazine, *National Geographic Adventure*, and *TIME*.

MATTHIEU WILL LEAD THE SILK ROAD PHOTO EXPEDITION.

MOROCCO



Award-winning photographer **Cotton Coulson** is a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, and has traveled to North Africa with the Society.

COTTON WILL LEAD THE MAY MOROCCO PHOTO EXPEDITION.

MONGOLIA

Matthieu Paley will lead the June Mongolia Photography Expedition, and **Chris Rainier** will lead the July expedition. See their bios above. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS



BHUTAN

Set out into the mountains of Bhutan to shoot images of exquisite temples, timeless farming villages, and the towering Himalaya. Capture scenes from a lively market or crimson-robed monks against a backdrop of whitewashed dzongs. Hike into forests where wild moss creates an otherworldly atmosphere, and photograph breathtaking panoramas of snow-clad peaks.

See page 58 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

12 Days • 2014: Mar. 9–20 • Oct. 17–28

Expedition Cost: \$6,595

Internal Airfare: \$960



TIBET AND NEPAL

Journey through the Himalaya, from the stark Tibetan Plateau to the verdant foothills of Nepal. In Lhasa, frame the Potala Palace in the golden hues of morning, and listen to the lilting chant of monks during a private butter-lamp-lighting ceremony. Snap portraits of traditional Tibetan dancers in Gyangzê. Venture to the Everest North Face Base Camp to photograph the world's highest peaks, and delve into the colorful bustle of Kathmandu with your camera.

See page 64 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

16 Days • 2014: Oct. 31–Nov. 15

Expedition Cost: \$7,895

Internal Airfare: \$475



COLOMBIA new

A land of rippling green hills, snow-capped peaks, long stretches of azure coast, and colonial towns that dazzle with color and charm, Colombia harbors great rewards for photographers. Focus on the exotic birds of the cloud forest, or document the magnificent architecture of colonial castles. Capture the spirit of a country reconnecting with the world on the lively streets of Bogotá and Cartagena.

See page 32 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

11 Days • 2014: Dec. 7–17

Expedition Cost: \$6,795

Internal Airfare: \$495

Clockwise from top left: A woman and child circle the Bodhnath Stupa in Nepal; a portrait of vibrant hues, a Colombian woman pauses to pose; an elephant and his rider cut a striking portrait against the Taj Mahal; encircled by candles, a monk crouches by a massive reclining Buddha in Myanmar; a forest of torii, or inscribed wooden gateways, marks the entrance to a Japanese shrine; a young monk in Bhutan peers through a carved gate.



RAIL JOURNEY THROUGH INDIA new

In India, everyday life plays out in bright colors, a vivid juxtaposition of ancient and modern against a backdrop of intricate architecture. Traveling aboard the *Palace on Wheels* train, document this enchanting land on photo shoots in rural villages, at the Taj Mahal, and amid evocative dunes. Focus on birdlife at a wildlife sanctuary, and snap action shots of dancers at a private performance. Then revel in the visual feast of Jaisalmer's Desert Festival, where snake charmers, puppeteers, and gymnasts vie with dancing camels for your attention.

See page 68 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

13 Days • 2015: Jan. 25–Feb. 6
Expedition Cost: from \$10,995

JAPAN

An intoxicating mix of time-honored tradition and cutting-edge modernity, Japan is a fascinating place to photograph. In Kyoto, enjoy a private photo opportunity with elegant geisha, explore the lantern-lit streets of the Gion district, and capture the lush green carpets of the “moss temple.” Photograph the sunrise atop a sacred mountaintop and the thatched villages of Shikoku Island before traveling to Hiroshima, the island of Miyajima, and more.

See page 60 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

12 Days • 2014: Mar. 18–29 • Apr. 18–29
Expedition Cost: \$7,895

MYANMAR

Myanmar is opening its doors to the world, revealing a people still tied to ancient traditions and a country bursting with cultural treasures. The combination is a photographer's dream come true. Capture images of monks at prayer in Yangon's most important temple and scenes of everyday life along the Irrawaddy. Take a photo cruise in a long-tail boat, catch the spirit of a traditional leg-rowing race on Inle Lake, and photograph the temples of the Bagan plain aglow in the light of the setting sun.

See page 72 for the general itinerary, and visit our website for more details.

13 Days • 2014: Nov. 11–23
2015: Jan. 28–Feb. 9
Expedition Cost: \$7,295
Internal Airfare: \$400

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

BHUTAN



National Geographic Society Explorer **Chris Rainier** is the photographer for the Society's Enduring Voices Project. He is a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler*, and has won numerous photography awards, including the Lowell Thomas Award.

CHRIS WILL LEAD THE MARCH 2014 BHUTAN PHOTO EXPEDITION.

TIBET AND NEPAL



For more than 30 years, photographer **Ira Block** has covered assignments around the world for *National Geographic* magazine. His photographic subjects range from fossils in the Gobi to hidden treasures in China and Tibet.

IRA WILL LEAD THE TIBET AND NEPAL PHOTO EXPEDITION.

COLOMBIA



Christopher P. Baker has been traveling to Colombia for over two decades, and he authored and photographed a guidebook to Colombia in the *National Geographic Traveler* series. He has written and photographed for dozens of publications, including *National Geographic Traveler* and *Newsweek*.

CHRISTOPHER WILL LEAD THE COLOMBIA PHOTO EXPEDITION.

RAIL JOURNEY THROUGH INDIA

Chris Rainier will lead the India Photography Expedition. See his bio above.

MYANMAR



Nevada Wier is a multiple-award-winning photographer specializing in documenting the remote corners and cultures of the world. She has been traveling to Myanmar since 1986, and is currently working on a book about the country.

NEVADA WILL LEAD THE JANUARY 2015 MYANMAR PHOTO EXPEDITION.

JAPAN

Chris Rainier will lead the April Japan Photography Expedition. See his bio above.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.



INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST FAMILY ADVENTURES

We're thrilled to introduce six new, immersive expeditions designed to engage the whole family. We've carefully crafted each itinerary to appeal to all ages, combining meaningful interactions with local people, hands-on exploration, and family fun—whether you're rafting through landscapes in China that inspired *Avatar* or listening to Maasai storytellers in the eastern Serengeti. What can you expect on our new family trips?

- Along with our expedition leader, a Young Explorer Leader is always on hand to organize and facilitate fun learning activities like scavenger hunts, craft projects, and stargazing walks that help young explorers get the most out of the places we go.
- Each trip is filled with hands-on experiences and interactions with fascinating people in the field. We'll meet a volcanologist in Iceland to find out how volcanoes continue to sculpt the land, try out a martial art with a master in China, and practice ancient weaving techniques with a traditional Andean weaver in Peru.
- A Kid to Kid Connection: Before the trip, we'll link each young traveler with a pen pal of about the same age in our destination. After corresponding by email (or snail mail!) from afar, we'll meet our pen pals in person and share our cultures through games, crafts, or even a cooking lesson!

Picture your family scanning the rain forest canopy for howler monkeys in Costa Rica, or exploring the ancient underground cities of Cappadocia, Turkey. Amazing moments happen every day on our new family trips, and they make for memories your family will treasure far into the future.



Above photos, left to right: a toucan alights in Costa Rica; a family white-water rafting adventure; a girl catches her balance on a jungle canopy walkway; a Peruvian mother and child. Background photo: a trio of Burchell's zebras stands at attention on the Tanzanian plain.

TANZANIA FAMILY ADVENTURE

new

FAMILY



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the thrill of daily wildlife safaris in the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater, and discover lions, leopards, elephants, zebras, colorful birds, and more with local guides.
- Get immersed in Maasai culture on visits with warriors, artisans, and schoolchildren, and explore a traditional Maasai *boma*.
- Take bush walks, go biking in the Ngorongoro highlands, and spend an optional night camping under the stars in a private nature refuge.
- Soar over the Serengeti on an optional hot air balloon ride, or take a dawn game drive to spot wildlife at its most active time.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Karibu! Arrive in Tanzania and transfer to our hotel in Arusha. MOUNT MERU HOTEL

DAYS 3 AND 4 EASTERN SERENGETI

Take a short flight to the eastern Serengeti and continue to our private nature refuge, nicknamed “Giraffic Park”. Explore on foot or by 4x4, meet young Maasai warriors, visit a Maasai women’s collaborative, and hear folktales told by a Maasai storyteller; then head out on a thrilling night safari. The next morning, take a bush walk with a wildlife expert and visit a Maasai village school. Kids will get to know their pen pals, participating in a variety of fun activities. Venture into a typical *boma* settlement, and “jump” into a traditional Maasai dance. If you wish, hike into the wilderness with our rangers for a night of authentic bush camping. Sit around the campfire under the stars and listen to the sounds of the Serengeti. EASTERN SERENGETI NYUMBA CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

Above left: A lioness stands at attention in the grasslands of Tanzania.

KID to KID CONNECTION

During our stay in the Eastern Serengeti, kids will spend time in a Maasai village getting acquainted with their pen pals. We’ll learn phrases in Swahili and the local language, Maa; play a friendly game of soccer; and teach our Maasai friends traditional American games.

DAYS 5, 6, AND 7 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy three days on safari in the fabled Serengeti, observing a mind-boggling array of animals. Float over the savanna on an optional early morning hot air balloon ride, or spot wildlife on a dawn game drive. Learn the game of *bao*, try Tanzanian cuisine, and identify animal prints with trackers. CENTRAL SERENGETI NYUMBA CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 8 NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

Examine fossils at Olduvai Gorge, where Louis and Mary Leakey discovered *Homo habilis* remains on a National Geographic-sponsored expedition. Then settle into a coffee estate on the outer slopes of the Ngorongoro Crater. Relax on the veranda, visit the farm animals, or ride a bike to the nearby village. GIBB’S FARM (B, L, D)

DAY 9 NGORONGORO CRATER

Descend 2,000 feet to the crater floor and spend a full day on safari surrounded by some 25,000 wild animals! Later, gather around a fire to hear *tembo* (elephant) folktales before our farewell dinner. Enjoy a rare chance to spot nocturnal bush babies tonight. (B, L, D)

DAYS 10 AND 11 ARUSHA/U.S.

Today, meet an Iraqw storyteller and his artisan wife at their home, visit a unique art center, and browse local handicrafts. Relax in day rooms in Arusha before heading to the airport for your overnight flight home. MOUNT MERU HOTEL (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 21–Jul. 1 • Jul. 21–31
Dec. 26, 2014–Jan. 5, 2015

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$5,990
Children (ages 7–17)	\$5,790

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$800. On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person. The optional bush camp accommodations on Day 4 are \$250 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Kilimanjaro begins at \$1,900, and flights within Tanzania are \$300 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to Tarangire National Park. Visit our website or call for details.

About Our Accommodations:

In the Serengeti, we stay in eco-friendly, mobile tented camps situated to maximize wildlife viewing. Each comfortable tent features private facilities and a hot shower. In the Ngorongoro highlands we stay in private cottages on a working coffee farm.

PERU FAMILY ADVENTURE new



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend an entire day at Machu Picchu exploring the mysterious ruins and hiking the site's peaks for stunning views.
- Join local chefs, bakers, horse-riders, weavers, and more for hands-on experiences of beloved Peruvian traditions.
- Explore the ancient stone fortress and bustling colonial plazas of the lively Inca capital of Cusco.
- Travel by train and bus through the Inca's Sacred Valley, meeting locals along the way.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LIMA, PERU

Welcome to Peru, land of the Inca! This evening is free to rest up for our grand adventure. HOTEL COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA

DAY 2 CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY

Meet the rest of the group and fly to the Inca capital of Cusco. Explore the Sacsayhuamán fortress made with 100-ton stones that fit together so tightly that not even a sheet of paper can slide between. After lunch and a hike in the colorful market town of Pisac, enter the Sacred Valley of the Inca, our stomping ground for the next three days. Our welcome dinner features delicious Peruvian cuisine. ARANWA SACRED VALLEY HOTEL RESORT & WELLNESS (B, L, D)

DAY 3 SACRED VALLEY

National Geographic grantee Nilda Callañaupa welcomes us to her Center for Traditional Textiles where you can dye wool, spin yarn, or set up a loom. Later, take a Peruvian paso horse for a ride, or hike among glittering salt terraces. (B, L, D)

Above left: Travelers take in the views over the ancient city of Machu Picchu.

KID to KID CONNECTION

Kids will meet their pen pals at the Picaflor House, a community center for disadvantaged children located outside of Cusco. They'll work together on a creative arts project, sharing phrases in Spanish, Quechua, and English, and then head outside for a fun game of soccer.

DAY 4 SACRED VALLEY

Join a master chef and local farmers and eat traditional food cooked in the ground. Explore Ollantaytambo, a classic Inca valley town, then board the train for Machu Picchu, passing breathtaking mountain vistas. INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 5 MACHU PICCHU

Machu Picchu is one of the world's most amazing sights. Spend all day exploring the ruins, hiking the steep peaks, and pondering the mysteries of this "lost" city of the Inca, forgotten at the Spanish conquest and only rediscovered to the West in 1911 by Hiram Bingham with funding from National Geographic. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 SACRED VALLEY TRAIN/CUSCO

Ride back up the valley to sample *pan chuta*, a sweet, spiced flatbread baked in traditional clay ovens. Then young explorers will meet their pen pals. They'll play soccer, participate in an art project, and try out their Spanish. This evening, enjoy a special farewell dinner in the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art. Kids can share entries from their journals and make sure they know how to stay in touch with their new friends. HOTEL LIBERTADOR EL PALACIO DEL INKA (B, L, D)



A traditional Andean weaver shares the secrets of her craft.



DAYS 7 AND 8 CUSCO/LIMA/U.S.

Today explore the marvelous streets and plazas of Cusco, once lavishly adorned with Inca gold stolen by the Spanish during the conquest. Return to Lima in the afternoon for your overnight flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 21–28 • Jun. 29–Jul. 6 • Jul. 12–19
Aug. 2–9 • Dec. 21–28
Dec. 28, 2014–Jan. 4, 2015

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$4,490
Children (ages 7–17)	\$4,290

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$800. On the December departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$200 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Lima begins at \$750, and the flights within Peru are \$400 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to Peru's Amazon rain forest. Visit our website or call for details.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy an unforgettable day of adventure in and around the treetops and volcanic canyon landscapes of Río Blanco.
- Go rafting and zip-lining through tropical forests, surrounded by wildlife of all varieties.
- Eat lunch in a colonial plaza, have dinner in a tree house, and visit a coffee plantation.
- See Costa Rica's wild cats at a rescue center established to help orphaned or wounded animals, like jaguars and ocelots.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Bienvenidos! Your tropical adventure begins! Meet fellow travelers and our expedition leaders—both “ticos,” or native Costa Ricans—at a welcome dinner. REAL INTERCONTINENTAL SAN JOSÉ (D)

DAY 2 SAN JOSÉ/MONTEVERDE

Explore the beauties of San José—from tropical fruit stands at the Mercado Central to the Teatro Nacional and the glittering Museum of Pre-Columbian Gold. After lunch in the central square, head north to the cloud forests of Monteverde. Go on a twilight forest walk as nocturnal creatures awaken. EL ESTABLO (B, L, D)

DAY 3 MONTEVERDE

Hike with a local expert through the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Spot some of the 500-plus species of orchids and look for wildlife: howler monkeys, tapirs, sloths, leaf-cutter ants, snakes and frogs, and colorful birds and butterflies. See how coffee is grown and roasted on a coffee plantation and ride in an ox-drawn cart. If you feel

Above left: A family splashes through the rapids of the Corobicí River.

adventurous, ride a zip line through the forest canopy! Dinner tonight is in a tree house. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 GUANACASTE

Head to Guanacaste Province, full of fast rivers, volcanic scenery, and deep canyons. Raft the Corobicí River through the tropical dry forest, keeping eyes peeled for otters, crocodiles, monkeys, and large birds like storks, herons, and roseate spoonbills. See wild cats up close at the Las Pumas Rescue Center: jaguars, pumas, ocelots, or jaguarundis. Our home for the next two nights is hidden away on a “lost river” deep in a protected forest. RÍO PERDIDO HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 RÍO PERDIDO/COLONIA LIBERTAD

Adventures abound! Spend the day on a wild excursion in and around the canyons of Río Blanco. Clamber on canyon platforms, rappel down cliff faces, walk across hanging bridges, zip-line above the rushing river, and swing and hike through the treetop canopy. Swim in natural thermal pools with views over ancient volcanic landscapes. Spend a day at Colonia Libertad, a community of farm workers. Kids meet their pen pals at the local school, play basketball together, and forge



friendships face-to-face. At our farewell dinner tonight, kids share bits from their trip journals and exchange contact information with their new friends. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 LIBERIA/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 13–19 • Jul. 5–11 • Jul. 25–31
Nov. 20–26 • Dec. 20–26
Dec. 26, 2014–Jan. 1, 2015

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$3,790
Children (ages 7–17)	\$3,590

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$800. Economy airfare from Miami to San José and return from Liberia begins at \$595 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to the beach at Bosque del Mar. Visit our website or call for details.



A keel-billed toucan calls out from its leafy perch.

KID to KID CONNECTION

In the village of Colonia Libertad, kids will get to know their “tico” pen pals during an afternoon of fun activities. They’ll join artisans to learn how to make soap using local herbs, and teach their new friends how to play basketball at hoops that have been donated to the community.

CHINA FAMILY ADVENTURE new



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the enchanted karst landscapes that inspired scenery in *Avatar* and take in views from a glass walkway 4,000 feet in the sky.
- Go on a white-water rafting adventure past stilt villages in Wulingyuan.
- Climb watchtowers on a less-visited part of the Great Wall, and have lunch on the observation deck of Shanghai's iconic Oriental Pearl TV Tower.
- Join local masters to learn Chinese cooking or tai chi, kung fu, or traditional kite-making.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./ SHANGHAI, CHINA

Cross the international date line and arrive in Shanghai on Day 2. The next day, delve into Shanghai's old town. Explore the zigzagging paths of Yu Yuan Garden and the bustling market. After a dim sum lunch, learn the secrets of Chinese cuisine with a local chef or join a tai chi master for a lesson. Gather for a fun welcome dinner. HOTEL EQUATORIAL SHANGHAI (B, L, D)

DAY 4 SHANGHAI/ZHANGJIAJIE

Surround yourself with ancient treasures on a private tour of the Shanghai Museum. Ride up to the top of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower for amazing views and have lunch on the observation deck. Then fly to Zhangjiajie in the mountainous Hunan Province. PULLMAN ZHANGJIAJIE HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 ZHANGJIAJIE/WULINGYUAN

Venture into a peculiar landscape of towering, tree-topped karst pinnacles at the Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area, a UNESCO

World Heritage site. Go hiking in the misty Zhangjiajie National Forest Park and along Golden Whip Stream, and ascend Tianzi Mountain for an incredible view of the "floating mountains" that inspired scenery for the film *Avatar*. On a white-water-rafting adventure, float down the Mengdong River past villages on stilts and soaring limestone cliffs. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 ZHANGJIAJIE/BEIJING

Join the curator for an insider's tour of the Giant Salamander Biological Science and Technology Museum. At the Junsheng Sandstone Painting Institute, watch an artist create images with sand, bark, and bamboo. Tiptoe around one of the area's tallest peaks on a glass skywalk 4,000 feet above the valley, and photograph an otherworldly landscape. Fly to Beijing after dinner. RENAISSANCE BEIJING CAPITAL HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 8, 9, AND 10 BEIJING/U.S.

Explore the legendary Great Wall at the Mutianyu section, and descend by cable car. Then take a lesson in the martial art of Changquan, or learn to make a traditional Chinese kite. Visit enormous Tiananmen Square, and discover the walled



Forbidden City, whose palaces hold nearly 9,000 rooms. Wander the *hutongs*, or lanes, of Beijing's traditional neighborhoods, where we'll meet up with our pen pals and their families in a beautiful courtyard. Celebrate our adventures at a farewell dinner. Depart Beijing the next day for your overnight flight home. (B, L, D; B, L, D)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 20–29 • Jul. 4–Jul. 13 • Jul. 25–Aug. 3

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$5,440
Children (ages 7–17)	\$5,240

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,500. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from New York to Shanghai and return from Beijing begins at \$1,220, and flights within China are \$550 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to Chengdu and the Giant Panda Sanctuary. Visit our website or call for details.

Above left: The Great Wall winds down a hillside outside of Beijing.

KID to KID CONNECTION

In the courtyard of a family home in Beijing's historic hutongs, enjoy an afternoon with your pen pals. Teach each other how to write your names in English and Chinese, share a typical American game with your new friends, and learn a few phrases in Chinese.



Local children play with a traditional kite.

TURKEY FAMILY ADVENTURE new

FAMILY ■



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Istanbul's markets and historic sights, the volcanic wonderland of Cappadocia, and the Aegean harbor town of Kuşadası.
- Get the inside story of ancient Ephesus, while visiting the ruins with a seasoned archaeologist.
- Venture into fortress dungeons, Roman temples, and a city built eight stories underground in Cappadocia.
- Learn how to marble paper and carve volcanic rock with local artisans and prepare a meal with a Turkish chef.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Welcome to Turkey! Transfer to our hotel in the heart of old Istanbul, and gather for a rooftop welcome dinner tonight. ARMADA HOTEL (D)

DAY 3 OLD ISTANBUL

Our exploration of this enchanting city begins at Topkapı Palace, the luxurious home of the Ottoman sultans. Visit the Blue Mosque and venture underground to the shimmering Byzantine arcades of Basilica Cistern. Sample Turkish delights amid pungent pyramids of cardamom and cumin at the spice market. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 ISTANBUL/CAPPADOCIA

Gaze up at the soaring domes of Hagia Sophia, a sixth-century church converted to a mosque by the Ottomans in 1453. Try your hand at the art of paper-marbling at a workshop. Climb the ramparts of the Fortress of the Seven Towers before our flight to Cappadocia. LYKIA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 CAPPADOCIA

Spend two days in this incredible volcanic

Above left: Four expressive faces peer out from the ruins.

KID to KID CONNECTION

Join your pen pals at a family home amid the whimsical landscapes of Cappadocia. Learn traditional Turkish games and share American past-times like Frisbee. Then roll up your sleeves to make a delicious Turkish dessert using fresh local apricots.

landscape. Descend to the underground city of Kaymaklı, carved in ancient times and later used by early Christians seeking refuge from the Romans. Explore Göreme, a World Heritage site of pinnacles of eroded volcanic ash transformed into medieval churches and monasteries. Try carving volcanic tuff with local masons, or visit nearby wineries to sample award-winning vintages and grape juice for the kids! Later, kids meet with their Turkish pen pals during a fun afternoon of games and conversation. Rise early the next day for an optional hot air balloon ride, then learn to cook local dishes with a renowned chef or hike a sandstone valley. Gather for a traditional meal—prepared by your fellow adventurers! (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 IZMIR/EPHESUS

Fly to Izmir and travel to Ephesus. Visit a site said to be the final home of the Virgin Mary and see the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Settle into our seaside hotel and stroll the beachfront town of Kuşadası before our farewell dinner. KISMET HOTEL (B, L, D)



Bright piles of spice vie for attention in the markets of Istanbul.



DAYS 8 AND 9 EPHESUS/ISTANBUL/U.S.

Delve into magical Ephesus with an archaeologist who has worked at the site for decades. Later, fly to Istanbul and enjoy time to relax or explore on your own. The next day, transfer to the airport for your flight home. ARMADA HOTEL (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 28–Jul. 6 • Jul. 12–20 • Jul. 26–Aug. 3

Expedition Cost:

Adults

\$4,990

Children (ages 7–17)

\$4,790

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,500. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Istanbul begins at \$950, and flights within Turkey are \$500 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to Turkey's Turquoise Coast. Visit our website or call for details.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

ICELAND FAMILY ADVENTURE new



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore waterfalls, fjords, caves, volcanoes, and rocky islands in Iceland's geological wonderland.
- Ride an Icelandic pony through lunar-like lava fields or hike to a magnificent Eldborg Crater.
- Go spelunking in a massive cave system formed by lava and water, and meet a leading volcanologist to learn about Iceland's bubbling, steaming, erupting landscapes.
- Hear riveting tales of elves, ghosts, and sea monsters from Iceland's rich folklore tradition.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND/ÍSÁFJÖRDUR

Arrive in Iceland and enjoy breakfast and a leisurely dip at the Blue Lagoon, a steaming geothermal spa. After a walking tour of Reykjavík, fly to Ísafjörður on the Westfjords peninsula and enjoy a welcome dinner. HÓTEL HORN (B, L, D)

DAY 3 WESTFJORDS PENINSULA

Take a guided walk of Ísafjörður and visit the Westfjords Heritage Museum. Then cruise to the island of Vigur to see thousands of seabirds and meet a local family, or listen to seasoned storytellers bring ancient Icelandic sagas alive. (B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 ARNARFJÖRDUR/PATREKSFJÖRDUR

In beautiful Arnarfjörður, visit the birthplace of Iceland's national hero, Jón Sigurðsson. Hike to the top of spectacular waterfalls, and slip behind Göngufoss falls for a watery view. Explore myths and mysteries at the Icelandic Sea Monster Museum, or have a dip in a "hot pot," tub-sized natural hot springs. Travel to Patreksfjörður,

Above left: A puffin takes flight from a grassy cliff.

KID to KID CONNECTION

Kids will meet up with their Icelandic pen pals in the waterfront village of Patreksfjörður, and head to an indoor climbing wall together for a lesson with local climbers. They'll play typical Icelandic games, and see what an Icelandic school looks like on a tour with a teacher.

where we'll meet our pen pals the next day for a morning of fun activities. Then, step into a pirate's shoes at the interactive Pirate House museum. At the soaring Látrabjarg cliffs, home to one of Europe's largest colonies of nesting seabirds, learn to identify puffins, kittiwakes, Arctic terns, and many more. FOSSHÓTEL WESTFJORDS (B, L, D, DAILY)

DAY 6 SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Take a scenic drive to Vatnsfjörður and go for a walk or a dip in a hot pool. Board a ferry to Stykkishólmur on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula and explore some of the more than 2,500 rocky islets by boat, or visit a pottery studio. HÓTEL EGILSEN (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Take a private tour of Stykkishólmur's Eldfjallasafn Volcano Museum led by a leading volcanologist. In Snæfellsjökull National Park, listen to local folklore as we explore. Take a short hike along a black-stone beach before settling into our eco-lodge, perched between the sea and the massive Snæfellsjökull glacier. HÓTEL HELLNAR (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 REYKJAVÍK/U.S.

Go spelunking in a lava-formed cave system, and then hike to a volcanic crater or saddle up for an Icelandic pony ride. Stop to take a sip of



Against a backdrop of icy peaks, a boy rides an Icelandic pony.



carbonated water—right from its underground source!—and visit Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful thermal spring. Visit an interactive center that focuses on Iceland's history before continuing to Reykjavík where we celebrate our adventure at a farewell dinner. The next day, transfer to the airport for your flight home. HILTON REYKJAVÍK NORDICA (B, L, D)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 29–Jul. 7 • Jul. 6–14 • Jul. 20–28
Aug. 3–11

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$6,740
Children (ages 7–17)	\$6,540

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,000. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Boston and Reykjavík begins at \$725, and the flight within Iceland is \$250 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension in southern Iceland. Visit our website or call for details.

SWISS ALPINE FAMILY ADVENTURE

FAMILY



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Board the historic *Glacier Express* for a breathtaking journey across 291 Alpine bridges and through 91 tunnels.
- Bike along pristine lakes, ride a zip line, and hike in the shadow of the Matterhorn's craggy peak.
- Join an Alpine guide for a walk on Morteratsch Glacier, one of the largest glaciers in the eastern Alps.
- Listen to mountaineering tales from an expert climber, and meet a naturalist to learn about Alpine wildlife.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

JULY 12 AND 13 U.S./ZURICH, SWITZERLAND/ ZERMATT

Depart on an overnight flight to Zurich. Upon arrival, board a train to the charming Alpine village of Zermatt, where cars are not allowed. Gather for a delicious welcome dinner tonight. HOTEL NATIONAL (D)

JULY 14 ZERMATT

Today, meet a local mountaineer at the Matterhorn Museum to hear tales of the early ascents of the highest Alps. Then cross rope bridges and soar through the valley on a zip-line on an Alpine course designed for all ages. Later, walk to a nearby knoll and search for the lights of the Hörnli Hut, a remote structure built as a respite for those climbing the Matterhorn. (B, D)

JULY 15 ZERMATT/GORNERGRAT GLACIER

Hop onto a rack-railway train for a ride high above Zermatt to one of the best viewpoints in the Alps. Admire a breathtaking vista that includes Monte Rosa, the Matterhorn, and the Gornergrat Glacier.

Above: The historic *Glacier Express* trundles through an Alpine valley.

KID to KID CONNECTION

Join local kids in the Engadine Valley to see how Swiss chocolates are made. Share language and local traditions, and then hit the field for a soccer game.

Then hike through the forest past Alpine lakes to Riffelalp to catch the train back to Zermatt. Stroll down the famous main street, stopping to sample varieties of Swiss chocolate along the way. (B, D)

JULY 16 GLACIER EXPRESS/PONTRESINA

Climb aboard the *Glacier Express*, the most famous train in the Alps. Keep your eye out for the twisted peak of the Matterhorn as we make our way to Pontresina. On the way we cross three high-mountain passes and 291 bridges, and pass through 91 tunnels. SPORHOTEL (B, L, D)

JULY 17 ENGADINE VALLEY/ST. MORITZ

Explore Engadine Valley by bicycle this morning. Ride along Silvaplana Lake to the Maloja Pass to take in sweeping views before continuing to St. Moritz. You may also choose to travel to this fabled town by train. This afternoon, take a chair lift up to Alp Languard where we join a naturalist for a nature walk and learn about the plants and wildlife of the Alps. (B, D)

JULY 18 MORTERATSCH GLACIER

Visit Morteratsch Glacier, one of the largest glaciers of the eastern Alps, and set out on a glacier



walk with an Alpine guide. Stop for lunch and a tour at a local cheese factory. Celebrate your adventure at a dinner of Swiss specialties tonight. (B, L, D)

JULY 19 ZURICH/U.S.

After breakfast, return to Zurich in time for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:
2014: Jul. 12–19

Expedition Cost:
Adults \$5,195
Children (under age 15) \$4,895

Adult price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$595. Child price applies to children under 15 sharing with one or two adults. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between New York and Zurich is \$1,300 (subject to change).



A boy blows bubbles over the enchanting Engadine Valley.

RESERVE ONLINE AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM

ALASKA FAMILY VOYAGE



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Traveling aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird*, spot black and brown bears and humpback whales with experienced naturalists.
- Glide in an expedition landing craft among a maze of icebergs in Tracy Arm Fjord, and paddle a kayak into pristine fjords and hidden coves.
- Peer up at towering totem poles and learn about the everyday life of Alaska's native tribes.
- Participate in special kids' activities, such as scavenger hunts and special expedition landing craft excursions, and earn a Junior Ranger Badge in Glacier Bay National Park.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 SEATTLE/JUNEAU, ALASKA

Fly from Seattle to Juneau, the capital of Alaska. Explore the city before embarking the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

DAYS 2-7 EXPLORING ALASKA'S ISLANDS, BAYS, AND FJORDS

Spend the next six days encountering some of the world's most spectacular scenery and wildlife along Alaska's coast. We take time to stop and explore this beautiful and intriguing land up close, as our small ship can reach places that few others see. The long days of summer allow for wildlife viewing well into the evening hours. Our special hands-on educational program is designed to encourage children's interest in a wide range of topics from the feeding behavior of humpback whales

Above left: A veil of water cascades off a breaching whale.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Naturalist **Casey Anderson**, host of Nat Geo WILD's *Expedition Wild* and *America the Wild*, joins our diverse team of experts on the June departure. Casey established the Montana Grizzly Encounter, a bear rescue and education facility that has been featured in the National Geographic Channel's *Expedition Grizzly* as well as educational videos, films, and even in a game for X-Box Kinect.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



and the identification of bear tracks in the wild. (B, L, D DAILY)

Our approach during this voyage is one of discovery, and our itinerary is flexible. We follow the same itinerary as described on pages 20 and 21, and explore the following places:

TRACY ARM FJORD OR ENDICOTT
ARM FJORD
PETERSBURG
FREDERICK SOUND
CHATHAM STRAIT
ICY STRAIT
CHICHAGOF ISLAND
GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK
AND PRESERVE

DAY 8 SITKA/SEATTLE

After breakfast, disembark in Sitka, a unique town with a strong Russian heritage. Explore Sitka National Historic Park, where totem poles line thickly wooded trails. In the early afternoon, transfer to the airport for the flight to Seattle. (B)

SEE A DETAILED ITINERARY AND MAP ON PAGES 20-21.



A young explorer peers into Alaska's clear waters, on the lookout for interesting aquatic life.



Kayakers explore the rocky shores of an Alaska fjord.

INFORMATION

Dates:
2014: Jun. 28-Jul.5* • Jul. 19-26 • Aug. 2-9

*This departure follows the itinerary described here and on pages 20-21, but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$6,290
Located on Main Deck	
Category 2	\$7,340
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	
Category 3	\$8,390
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	

See *National Geographic Sea Bird* description, photo, and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. **For children under 18, deduct \$500 from the adult rate.** For a single cabin, add \$3,150 in Category 1 and \$3,670 in Category 2. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Economy airfare from Seattle to Juneau and return from Sitka is \$650 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a seven-day extension to Denali National Park. Visit our website or call for details.

GALÁPAGOS FAMILY ODYSSEY



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the fascinating wildlife and geology of the Galápagos aboard the *National Geographic Endeavour* or *National Geographic Islander*.
- Cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals and birds unfazed by your presence.
- Snorkel amid sea turtles, quirky penguins, and playful sea lions; gaze into the old eyes of a giant sea tortoise; and sit among a colorful band of marine iguanas.
- Participate in special kids' activities, such as stargazing, scavenger hunts, drawing and journaling workshops, and knot-tying lessons.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart for Guayaquil and, upon arrival, transfer to the Hotel Hilton Colón.

DAY 2 GUAYAQUIL/GALÁPAGOS

Fly to the Galápagos Islands and settle into your cabin aboard the comfortable expedition ship *National Geographic Endeavour* or the more intimate *National Geographic Islander*. (B, L, D)

DAYS 3–8 EXPLORING THE GALÁPAGOS

Discover the Galápagos Islands with a dynamic team of naturalists specially trained to work with kids of all ages. Snorkel with playful sea lions and penguins, observe the interactions of marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs, and explore the coast by kayak and Zodiac. (B, L, D DAILY)

Above left: Snorkel buddies catch sight of a diving sea turtle.

In keeping with the nature of an expedition, our itinerary is flexible. We follow the same itinerary as described on pages 26 and 27, and will explore some of the following islands:

ISLA BARTOLOMÉ

ISLA SANTIAGO

ISLA SANTA CRUZ

ISLA ISABELA

ISLA FERNANDINA

ISLA FLOREANA

ISLA ESPAÑOLA

DAY 9 GALÁPAGOS/GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, disembark the ship and fly to Guayaquil. The evening is at leisure. HOTEL HILTON COLÓN (B)

DAY 10 GUAYAQUIL/U.S.

This morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

SEE A DETAILED ITINERARY AND MAP ON PAGES 26–27.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2014: Jun. 27–Jul. 6 • Jul. 4–13 • Jul. 5–14*
Jul. 19–28* • Aug. 1–10

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Islander*. The other three are aboard the *National Geographic Endeavour*.

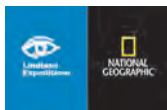
Expedition Cost:	Endeavour	Islander
Category 1	\$5,990	\$6,560
Category 2	\$6,890	\$7,390
Category 3	\$7,450	\$7,940
Category 4	\$7,990	\$8,490
Category 5	\$9,920	\$10,410

See *National Geographic Endeavour* and *National Geographic Islander* descriptions, photos, and deck plans on page 133. Prices are per person, double occupancy. **For children under 18, deduct \$500 from the adult rate.** For a single cabin on the *Endeavour*, add \$1,500 in Category 1 and \$1,720 in Category 2. For a single cabin on the *Islander*, add \$3,280 in Category 1 and \$3,600 in Category 2. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip economy airfare between Miami and Guayaquil is \$700, and between Guayaquil and Galápagos is \$450 for adults and \$225 for children under 12 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a post-trip extension to Machu Picchu and Cusco, Peru or Quito, Ecuador. Visit our website or call for details.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Our diverse team of experts will be joined by **Annie Griffiths** on the June departure. One of National Geographic's first female photographers, Annie has taken photographs in more

than 100 countries and published dozens of magazine articles and books for the Society. She chronicled her travels with her children in the book *A Camera, Two Kids, and a Camel*.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Sea lions bicker playfully as a father and son ready their camera.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

FAMILY ADVENTURES IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS



WINTER WILDLIFE IN YELLOWSTONE FAMILY ADVENTURE

Introduce your family to the magic of Yellowstone in winter, when the snow sets off the steaming, rainbow-colored pools, and wildlife is easier to spot against the white landscape. Exploring with a naturalist, watch geysers spurt and mud pots gurggle; spot bison, elk, and moose on a winter wildlife safari; and learn about the reintroduction of wolves in the park. Try out snowshoeing on a special excursion for kids, and enjoy activities designed for explorers of all ages.

- Catch sight of elk, bison, bighorn sheep, golden eagles, foxes, coyotes, otters, and maybe even a gray wolf. Yellowstone's animals spend the winter in low elevation valleys, where they are easier to spot against the sparkling snow.
- Watch the Old Faithful geyser explode into the sky, and discover Yellowstone's more hidden treasures as you explore in the comfort of heated snow coaches.
- Go on a snowshoeing expedition to track wildlife with a guide (kids only), and ride a horse-drawn sleigh through Gallatin Canyon.
- Meet an award-winning cinematographer who has filmed wolves and other wildlife, and learn about the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone.

6 Days • 2014: Dec. 24–29 • Dec. 30, 2014–Jan. 4, 2015

Expedition Cost: Adults \$3,595 Children (under age 18) \$3,225



GRAND CANYON, BRYCE, AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS FAMILY ADVENTURE

Encounter the incredible geological treasures of the American Southwest with your family on an expedition to Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon National Parks. Explore the North Rim of the Grand Canyon on foot or ride mules like the old pioneers. Hike amid Zion's wonderland of slot canyons, hanging gardens, and waterfalls. And wind your way through Bryce Canyon's whimsical maze of red rock spires. Stay in historic park lodges with Old West atmosphere, and take part in activities and excursions geared for explorers of all ages.

- Hike or ride a mule along the Grand Canyon's rim and peer into its mile-deep chasm.
- Marvel at the rainbow colors of the high desert.
- Splash through the Narrows of the Virgin River beneath Zion's sheer red cliffs.
- Learn about the incredible rock formations called hoodoos, and go on a scavenger hunt in Bryce Canyon.

7 Days • 2014: Jun. 22–28 • Jul. 20–26 • Aug. 3–9

Expedition Cost: Adults \$3,995 Children (under age 18) \$3,595



YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON FAMILY ADVENTURE

Explore two of America's greatest natural wonders: Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. On a variety of excursions designed for families, discover Yellowstone's mud pots, geysers, and colorful pools, and look for bison, bears, elk, eagles, and coyotes. Hike along the edge of the spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and witness iconic Old Faithful's thrilling eruption. Embark on a scavenger hunt in search of wildlife and wildflowers, then head south to the jagged peaks of the Teton Range. Hop on a boat on Jenny Lake, and descend the thrilling rapids of the Snake River.

- Meet grizzly bears rescued by naturalist and Nat Geo WILD host Casey Anderson.
- Go on a wildlife safari in search of bears, wolves, elk, bison, and more.
- Discover bubbling mud pots and steaming, stinky fumaroles; and watch Old Faithful erupt into the sky.
- Take to the wild waters of the Snake River on an adventure that the whole family will love.

7 Days • 2014: Jun. 22–28 • Jun. 29–Jul. 5 • Jul. 27–Aug. 2 • Aug. 3–9
Aug. 10–16

Expedition Cost: Adults \$3,995 Children (under age 18) \$3,595



ALASKA: DENALI TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FAMILY ADVENTURE

Discover stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife on a family expedition into the heart of Alaska's untouched wilderness. Stay in cozy cabins in Denali National Park and in alpine luxury at a beautiful mountain resort. Head out on naturalist-led hikes to search for moose, caribou, wolves, grizzly bears, and Dall sheep, and search for wildflowers and animals on a scavenger hunt. Meet Alaska's wild residents up close at a local conservation center, and scan the horizon for whales and other marine life on a wildlife cruise through Prince William Sound.

- Explore the beauty and vastness of Denali National Park on a variety of hikes, spotting caribou, moose, wolves, and more.
- Go gold-panning in glacier-fed rivers.
- Look for calving glaciers, humpback whales, and playful sea otters on a Prince William Sound cruise.
- Visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, home of orphaned and injured moose, coyotes, bears, and other animals.

7 Days • 2014: Jul. 3–9 • Jul. 12–18 • Jul. 31–Aug. 6 • Aug. 10–16

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,395 Children (under age 18) \$4,855

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these family adventures, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/family

FIND MORE TRIPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com to see detailed itineraries of these and other trips.



EXPLORING THE LOW COUNTRIES: HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

new

Discover wild islands, charming medieval towns, and a wealth of important art on a voyage from Germany to the Netherlands and Belgium aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. Explore the seaside village of Harlingen and the dune-capped West Frisian Islands, and take in a dazzling view of the tulip fields of North Holland. In Amsterdam and Antwerp, experience the incredible artistic heritage of the Dutch Golden Age and the Flemish Primitives. Stroll the canal-carved medieval towns of Brugge and Gent, and revel in the rich culinary and musical traditions of the region.

9 Days • 2014: May 4–12
Expedition Cost: from \$7,320

D-DAY: THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Retrace the events of D-Day on a special expedition commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Allied landing in Normandy. Examine important World War II sites in London. Then follow the path of Allied ships from Portsmouth, England, to the shores of Normandy. Stroll the legendary beaches and the evocative cliff top at Pointe du Hoc, and visit villages that were caught up in the fighting.

8 Days • 2014: May 2–9 • Sep. 27–Oct. 4
Expedition Cost: \$6,895

SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ROVOS RAIL

Experience the many facets of South Africa on a journey aboard the luxury *Rovos Rail*. Explore Cape Town with a local travel writer and delve into the powerful events and colorful lore that have shaped the region. Then journey across spectacular landscapes on our classic train. Cap off the adventure with a safari, spotting the “big five” in MalaMala Game Reserve.

11 Days • 2014: Sep. 25–Oct. 5
Expedition Cost: \$9,995
Internal Airfare: \$875

PATAGONIA: ARGENTINA AND THE CHILEAN FJORDS

Set off from Buenos Aires aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* to discover the magnificent coast of Patagonia. Explore Tierra del Fuego, spot Andean condors among the pinnacles of Torres del Paine National Park, and glide in Zodiacs past incandescent icebergs in the Chilean fjords. Then round Cape Horn to Ushuaia, following the route of some of history’s great explorers.

20 Days • 2014: Oct. 23–Nov. 11
Expedition Cost: from \$15,950
Internal Airfare: \$395



SAILING THE CARIBBEAN

Set sail aboard the magnificent four-masted *Sea Cloud*, and discover the lush islands and vibrant cultures of the Lesser Antilles. Hike in the mountainous rain forests of Dominica, venture to an active volcanic crater in Saint Lucia, and sail on a catamaran in the idyllic Grenadines. Amid a spectacular tropical backdrop, enjoy opportunities to swim and snorkel at coral reefs and white-sand beaches, and find the hidden corners that make this place so special.

8 Days • 2015: Feb. 26–Mar. 5 • Mar. 5–12
Mar. 12–19
Expedition Cost: from \$7,990

Clockwise from top left: Spires and stepped gables define the skyline on Graslei Harbor in Gent, Belgium; a guanaco looks out over Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia; a red umbrella stands out against the rushing waters of Multnomah Falls on the Columbia River; a totem in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii; a vision of dazzling stripes, a herd of Burchell’s zebras splashes through the shallows.



JOURNEY TO ALASKA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND HAIDA GWAI

Set sail on a journey to Alaska's Inside Passage and British Columbia aboard the *National Geographic Sea Lion* or *Sea Bird*, and experience the extraordinary biodiversity and cultural riches of the Haida Gwaii archipelago. Encounter ancient totem poles, and kayak or cruise in expedition landing craft along wild shores shrouded with old-growth forest. Continue to the dramatic fjords and inland waterways of southeastern Alaska, on the lookout for orcas, humpback whales, and Steller sea lions. Then listen for the thunder of calving glaciers while exploring the stunning wilderness of Glacier Bay National Park.

**15 Days • 2014: May 3–17 • May 4–18
Sep. 6–20 📷 • Sep. 7–21 📷**

**Expedition Cost: from \$9,990
Internal Airfare: \$300**

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See our website for details.



COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS JOURNEY

Follow the path of Lewis and Clark's expedition through Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and explore the historical lands of the Native American tribes they encountered. Glide beneath the towering canyons of the Columbia River Gorge, and explore its tributaries by kayak or expedition landing craft. Hike or bike amid breathtaking vistas, and take an exhilarating jet boat ride up the Snake River to Hell's Canyon. Explore the lush landscapes of the Cascade Range, dine on locally sourced cuisine, and sample the region's famed wines and microbrews.

**7 Days • 2014: Sep. 22–28 • Sep. 23–29
Sep. 28–Oct. 4 • Sep. 29–Oct. 5
Oct. 4–10 • Oct. 5–11
Oct. 10–16 📷 • Oct. 16–22
Oct. 22–28**

Expedition Cost: from \$4,490



Special Offers and Savings

SPECIAL OFFERS

Reserve your space on any of the expeditions listed below by **March 31, 2014** and receive special savings on select departure dates. Offers are for new bookings, may not be combined with other offers, and are subject to availability.

Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

Receive a complimentary new Panama City extension on the December 13, 2014 and January through March 2015 departures. See the itinerary on page 18.

Alaska's Inside Passage

Receive complimentary round-trip airfare between Seattle and Alaska (a \$650 value) on the following 2014 departures: May 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31, and June 1 and 7. See the itinerary on page 20.

Journey to Antarctica

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires (a \$1,200 value) on the November 28 and December 8, 2014 departures. See the itinerary on page 96.

Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires (a \$1,200 value) on the November 8, 2014 departure. See the itinerary on page 98.

SPECIAL SAVINGS

Lifelong Explorers: Members of our Lifelong Explorer program enjoy savings on any National Geographic Expedition or Adventure. See page 5 for more information.

Group Discount: For parties of eight or more traveling together, each traveler receives five percent off the expedition cost. Separate terms and conditions apply. Please ask upon making your reservation. The group discount is not applicable on private jet bookings.

*Complimentary airfare is subject to availability and must be booked through Lindblad Expeditions.

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy.

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UNIQUE TRIPS FOR THE ACTIVE TRAVELER

Veer off the beaten path on one of our active adventures, and discover wild landscapes, fascinating cultures, and spectacular wildlife. Drive your own team of huskies through Sweden's snowy Lapland wilderness, or ramble clear across England. Explore Scotland's highlands and islands on foot, or paddle your kayak far into Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park. Hike high into Italy's Dolomites, or past little-known Inca ruins on the way to Peru's magical Machu Picchu.

- Enjoy daily adventures that are physically active and culturally rewarding.
- Our six activity level ratings help you choose the trip that is right for you.
- Stay in eco-lodges, small inns, or private camps chosen for their charm, comfort, and location.
- Travel in small groups of no more than 16 travelers.
- Explore with some of the best guides in each region.

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GEOGRAPHIC
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JOIN US ON ONE OF THESE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURES:

- Tuscany and Cinque Terre Hiking Adventure
- England Coast to Coast
- Kayaking and Hiking Croatia's Islands
- Sweden: Dogsledding to the Icehotel
- Costa Rica Rafting Adventure
- Alaska by Sea Kayak
- Peru: Machu Picchu Inn to Inn
- New Zealand Adventure
- Mongolian Horse Trek
- Nepal: Everest Base Camp Trek
- Morocco Camel Trek and Hiking Adventure
- Tanzania: Walking Safari with the Maasai
and many more!

New Photography Adventures!

We've invited acclaimed National Geographic photographers to accompany certain adventures to share their techniques, insights, and passion for photography as you explore together. Visit our website for details.

For even more National Geographic Adventures,
visit our website at nationalgeographicadventures.com
or call 1-888-689-2557.



SUMMER TRIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Calling all high school students! We invite the next generation of explorers to get out into the field with our scientists, photographers, and adventurers and learn about the world through hands-on experiences. Conduct research alongside conservationists in Namibia or meet archaeologists in Peru. Go on shoots with a National Geographic photographer during a photography workshop in London or Paris, or work on community service projects at a school in Thailand or Costa Rica.

Our students dig deeper into the place they're exploring through an On Assignment project—Photography, Wildlife & Conservation, Filmmaking, or Archaeology, for example—that enables them to further engage with the cultures and landscapes they encounter. And a National Geographic expert joins a portion of each expedition and field workshop to inspire students with personal stories and insights. Students choose the place and project that they're most passionate about, then go out into the world to create their own story.

TAKE A LOOK AT WHERE WE'RE GOING IN 2014:

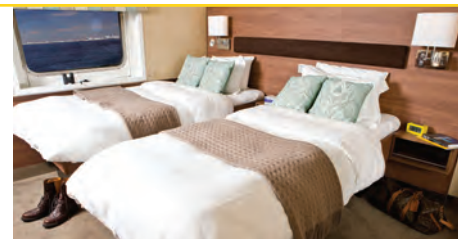
- Alaska
- Australia
- Belize
- China
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador & Galápagos
- India
- Ireland
- Italy & Greece
- London
- Namibia
- Paris
- Peru
- Prague
- Switzerland & France
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- and more!



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DECK PLANS



National Geographic Explorer

The *National Geographic Explorer* is a state-of-the-art, fully stabilized, ice-class expedition ship with an ice-reinforced hull that enables it to navigate polar environments while providing exceptional comfort. The ship carries kayaks and Zodiacs, as well as sophisticated video equipment that allows access to the underwater world. Our “Open Bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and learn about navigation. A selection of dining options on board that offer regionally inspired cuisine using fresh, local ingredients.

CAPACITY: 148 guests in 81 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Bahamas. OVERALL LENGTH: 367 feet.

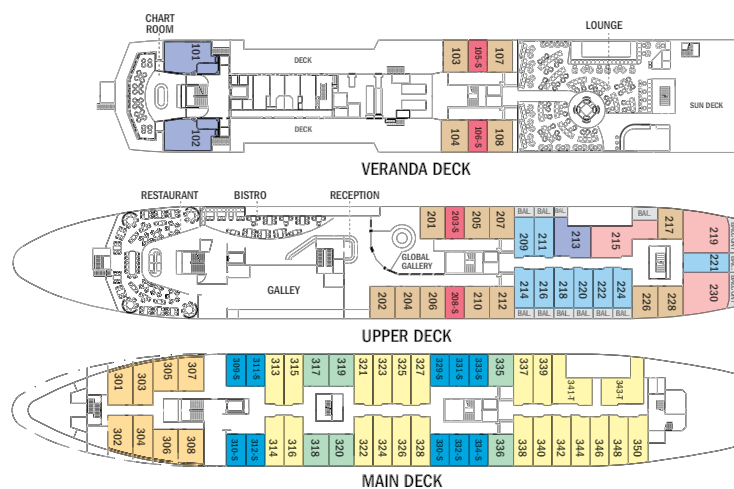
PUBLIC AREAS: A bistro bar, a chart room, a gift shop, a library, a lounge with a bar and cutting-edge audio-visual facilities, and an observation lounge.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, ensuite bathrooms, and climate controls, and some have balconies. Single cabins in Category 2 are highlighted in bright blue (cabins 309–312 and 329–334). Single cabins in Category 3 are highlighted in bright pink (105, 106, 203, and 208).

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: 13 Zodiac landing craft, 36 double kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, SplashCam, underwater video camera, crow's nest remote-controlled camera, video microscope.

SPECIAL FEATURES: An undersea specialist, a wellness specialist, a photography instructor, a video chronicler, a full-time doctor, an Internet café, a fitness center, two LEXspa treatment rooms, a sauna, and laundry service. A National Geographic photographer accompanies every departure.

Above: A Category 2 room; the fitness center offers panoramic views; travelers learn about navigation in the *Explorer*'s chart room.



Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video





OUR NEWEST EXPEDITION SHIP *National Geographic Orion*

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion*, the newest addition to the National Geographic/Lindblad fleet, serves as our luxurious base camp for voyages to far-flung corners of the planet. A fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with an ice-reinforced hull, the *National Geographic Orion* is at home navigating polar ice as well as small harbors in the South Pacific.

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Bahamas. OVERALL LENGTH: 338 feet.

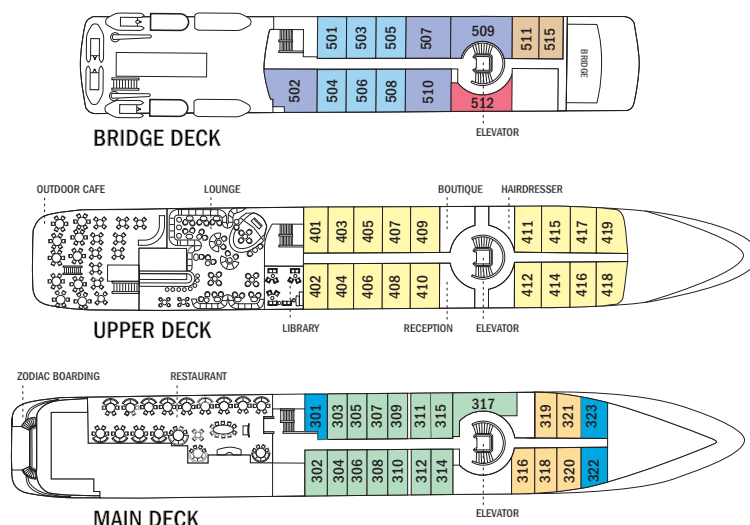
PUBLIC AREAS: An outdoor café and bar, a lounge with bar, a restaurant, a sun deck, a state-of-the-art lecture theater, a library, a boutique, a marina platform, a mud room, and an elevator.

CABINS: All cabins feature windows with ocean views, en suite bathrooms, climate controls, Internet access, and a flat-screen TV with DVD/CD player; some have balconies. Single cabins in Category 1 and Category 3 are highlighted in bright pink or bright blue (301, 322, 323, and 512).

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, a video microscope, and a crow's nest camera on the Kimberley expedition. Plus kayaks, snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and a glass-bottom boat on all Oceania voyages and the Kimberley/Spice Islands expedition.

SPECIAL FEATURES: A video chronicler, an undersea specialist, a photography instructor, and a full-time doctor; laundry; and wellness services, including a sauna, fitness room, and massage/spa treatment rooms. A hot tub on the Observation Deck doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates. A National Geographic photographer accompanies every departure.

Above: A Category 5 suite with a balcony; the spacious lounge; travelers enjoy the hot tub on the Observation Deck.



Watch a short video about this ship at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



DECK PLANS (continued)



National Geographic Sea Bird and National Geographic Sea Lion

Our twin sister ships, the *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*, are large enough to operate in remote seas, yet small enough to enter narrow waterways inaccessible to bigger ships. A fleet of kayaks and expedition landing craft provide easy access to places of interest, and plenty of public spaces allow guests to relax in comfort after a day of exploring. Meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables and feature locally inspired fare. Guests are welcome to visit the “Open Bridge” to meet our officers and learn about navigation. On our Alaska expeditions, the ships are authorized to operate in the Tongass National Forest under a Forest Service Special Use Permit.

CAPACITY: 62 guests in 31 outside cabins.
REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 152 feet.

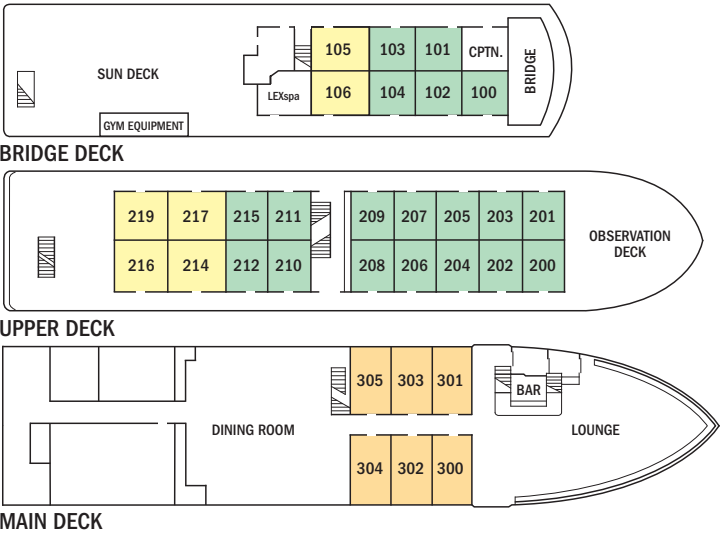
PUBLIC AREAS: a library, a gift shop, a lounge with full-service bar and audio-visual facilities, an Observation Deck, a partially covered Sun Deck with chairs and tables, and an outdoor stretching area.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows, private facilities, reading lights, and individual climate controls.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A bow camera; a hydrophone; kayaks; snorkeling gear; expedition landing craft; a SplashCam; an underwater video camera; a video microscope; and, in Baja, wet suits.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access, exercise equipment, a LEXspa, a wellness specialist, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler. A doctor is on board in Baja and Costa Rica/Panama, and an undersea specialist is on board in Baja and Alaska.

From top: A comfortable Category 2 cabin; the ships carry a fleet of kayaks; guests gather on the Sun Deck for a morning stretch with our wellness specialist.





National Geographic Endeavour

The *National Geographic Endeavour* is a premier expedition ship that is fully stabilized, allowing for smooth passage from one island to the next. Kayaks, Zodiacs, and a glass-bottom boat offer guests a variety of ways to explore, and a variety of public spaces on board make it easy to socialize, relax, or take in the views. Our Ecuadorian captain and officers welcome guests to the “Open Bridge.” All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables and the menu is international with an Ecuadorian flair.

CAPACITY: 96 guests in 56 outside cabins.

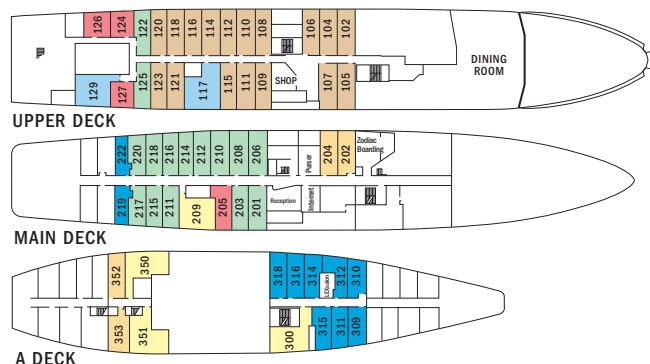
REGISTRY: Ecuador. OVERALL LENGTH: 295 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: A covered deck with chairs and tables, a gift shop, a library, a lounge with full-service bar and audio-visual facilities, a sauna, a small swimming pool, a spa, a fitness center, and a sun deck. The ship is fully air-conditioned.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes. Each has private facilities and climate controls. Single cabins in Category 1 are highlighted in bright blue (cabins 219, 222, 309–312, 314–316, and 318); in Category 2, they are highlighted in bright pink (124, 126, 127, and 205).

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Kayaks, glass-bottom boat, snorkeling gear, underwater video camera, video microscope, wet suits, and Zodiac landing craft.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access, laundry service, a floating massage platform, and a wellness program. A doctor, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler are also on board.



National Geographic Islander

Designed for just 48 guests, the intimate *National Geographic Islander* offers comfortable public spaces and a variety of exploration tools. Our Ecuadorian captain and officers welcome guests to the “Open Bridge.” All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables and the menu is international with an Ecuadorian flair.

CAPACITY: 48 guests in 24 outside cabins.

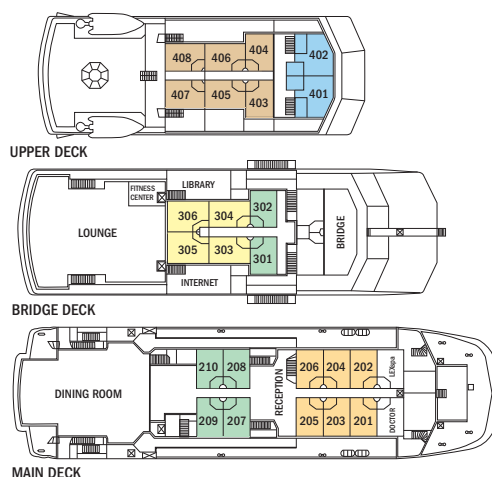
REGISTRY: Ecuador. OVERALL LENGTH: 164 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: A covered deck with hammocks, chairs and tables; a fitness center; a gift shop; a spa; a library; a lounge with full-service bar and audio-visual facilities; and a Sky Deck. The ship is fully air-conditioned.

CABINS: All cabins have a window with an outside view, private facilities, and climate controls.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Kayaks, snorkeling gear, underwater video camera, video microscope, wet suits, Zodiac landing craft.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access and laundry service. The ship is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment and an outdoor stretching area. A doctor, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler are also on board.



DECK PLANS (continued)



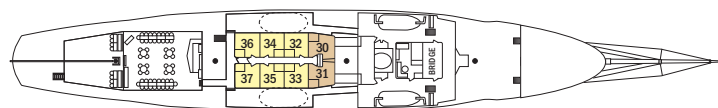
Sea Cloud

The *Sea Cloud*, a four-masted square-rigger, was built in 1931 by Wall Street businessman E.F. Hutton for his wife, Marjorie Merriweather Post. Cabins and common areas are beautifully appointed with antiques and period-style furniture. The *Sea Cloud* carries 30 sails measuring a total of 32,000 square feet. They are raised by hand by a spirited crew and guests have the chance to learn about their design and function during the voyage. All meals are served in a single seating, with cuisine that features tastes of the regions we visit. Guests are welcome on the “Open Bridge” to learn how the *Sea Cloud* is navigated and sailed. While the ship is elegant, the atmosphere on board is relaxed and casual. A Lindblad–National Geographic certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.

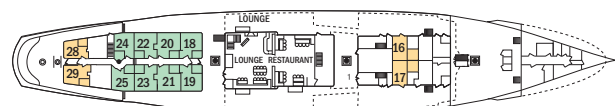
CAPACITY: 58 guests in 30 cabins including two owner’s suites.
REGISTRY: Malta. OVERALL LENGTH: 360 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: The outdoor Lido Bar, two sun decks, a first-class restaurant, and an elegant bar and lounge.

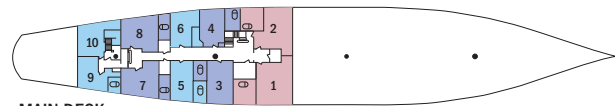
CABINS: The ship features 30 outside staterooms and cabins equipped with windows or portholes, private facilities, individual climate controls, and a hair dryer. The two Owner’s Suites, once the quarters of Hutton and Post, have sitting areas, fireplaces, and walk-in closets, and were elegantly appointed by Ms. Post herself.



CAPTAIN'S AND LIDO DECK



PROMENADE DECK



MAIN DECK

Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



Lord of the Glens

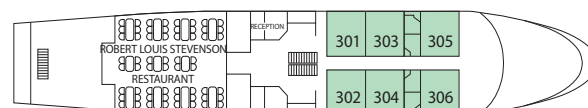
The M.V. *Lord of the Glens* is the only deluxe passenger vessel able to navigate both the Caledonian Canal and the open sea. With teak decks, hardwood-finished interiors and fine fabrics, this motorized yacht offers a stylish and relaxing ambience. All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables. Cuisine is healthy and features fresh Scottish ingredients, including poultry and seafood.

CAPACITY: 48 guests in 26 outside cabins.
REGISTRY: Great Britain. OVERALL LENGTH: 150 feet.

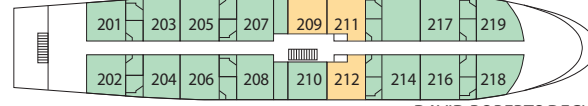
PUBLIC AREAS: Two lounges and two open-air viewing areas, a bar, a well-stocked library, and a reading area.

CABINS: All cabins have outside views and include a private bathroom with shower, individual climate controls, satellite television, a music system, a hair dryer, a telephone, a safety deposit box, and bathrobes.

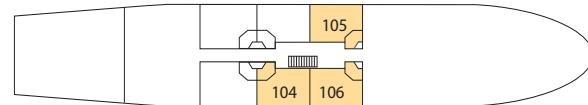
SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access; a fleet of bicycles on board; and access to kayaks in select locations. A Lindblad–National Geographic certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.



ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL DECK



DAVID ROBERTS DECK



JAMES WATT DECK



Jahan

Designed in the style of colonial cruise liners of old, the elegant R.V. *Jahan* is one of the first modern boutique-style riverboats to sail the Mekong. The ship's elegant cabins are beautifully furnished with floor-to-ceiling windows and private balconies. The restaurant features Western and regional cuisine served in single seatings with unassigned tables. Guests are welcome on the "Open Bridge" to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.

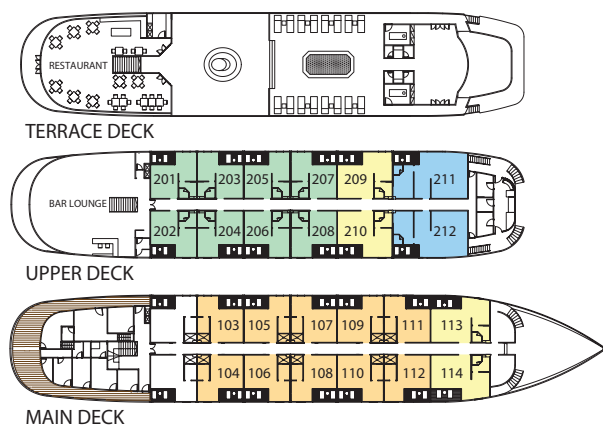
Capacity: 48 guests in 24 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Vietnam. OVERALL LENGTH: 230 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: A pool deck, a whirlpool spa, an outdoor bar, a lounge with a library, a full-service bar, and audio-video facilities, a gym, a boutique, and a spa. The ship is fully air-conditioned.

CABINS: All cabins are spacious and face outside with glass doors and private balconies. Each has private facilities and a hair dryer, individual climate controls, a music entertainment system, and a mini bar.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Wi-Fi Internet where available, morning tai chi classes, and DVD players and iPods are available on request. A Lindblad-National Geographic certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.



Delfin II

The *Delfin II* is an intimate riverboat with luxurious suites that offer expansive Amazon views. Skiffs and kayaks allow guests to venture down narrow jungle waterways on day and night excursions. The onboard chef serves fine cuisine made from local, sustainable products in a dining room with large windows for excellent views. All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables.

CAPACITY: 28 guests in 14 outside suites.

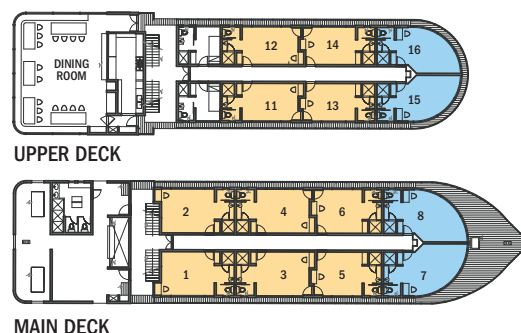
REGISTRY: Peru. OVERALL LENGTH: 120 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: A sundeck with hammocks; an observation deck with sofas, chairs, and a bar; a reference library; and an open Bridge.

SUITES: Elegant, air-conditioned guest suites feature large windows and private facilities. Four are master suites with 180-degree panoramic windows, and four suites can be interconnected to accommodate families.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Ten-person skiffs with individual seat cushions and plenty of leg room, a fleet of kayaks, rain ponchos, and rubber boots.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guests may swim directly from the skiffs using the convenient swim ladder. A Lindblad-National Geographic certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.



The National Geographic Travel Family



National Geographic Expeditions is proud to be part of the National Geographic Travel group, which includes *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, travel books and maps, and our digital travel team. Drawing on our rich heritage of exploration, we seek to offer experiences that are authentic, engaging, and transformative, running the gamut from compelling articles and helpful travel tools to unforgettable expeditions. Take a look at some of the great resources now at your fingertips through National Geographic Travel.



Our award-winning magazine **National Geographic Traveler** turns 30 this year! The most widely read travel magazine in the world, *Traveler* has long been an innovative leader in the travel sphere, pioneering the prestigious 25-year-old *Traveler* photo contest and the popular Travelers of the Year program. Its Places of a Lifetime series has expanded to apps and coffee-table books, and the new National Parks app has garnered prestigious awards. Head into the pages of our bold, newly designed magazine and find yourself transported, informed, and inspired. To subscribe to the print or digital magazine visit nationalgeographic.com/traveler.



Writer and explorer Andrew Evans is **National Geographic's Digital Nomad**, traveling the globe using social media to create interactive travel experiences for readers online. The very definition of an intrepid traveler, Andrew has ridden dogsleds through Canada and public buses from our headquarters in Washington, D.C. to the southernmost tip of South America (where he boarded the *National Geographic Explorer* for an adventure in Antarctica), blogging and tweeting all the way. Follow his adventures at digitalnomad.nationalgeographic.com or on Twitter @WheresAndrew.



Annual Photo Contest: The 26th Annual *National Geographic Traveler* Photo Contest kicks off this spring. We invite you to submit your favorite travel photos for a chance to win a host of great prizes—including the opportunity to have your winning image published in *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. Last year's contest garnered thousands of great photos that captured fleeting moments and breathtaking landscapes from Brazil to Indonesia. Visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/photocontest to see a stunning gallery of some of last year's contenders (including the photo above, by Yanai Bonne) and find out about our upcoming contest.



There's much more on our website! Visit the **National Geographic Expeditions website** for an easy-to-navigate trip finder, photo galleries and videos from our trips, stories from the field, and National Geographic articles that relate to our destinations. Also, see our full roster of experts, find out which trips they're leading, and read our Q&As to hear what they have to say about their fieldwork. Visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com today!

Responsibility

The National Geographic Society will provide educational enrichment for National Geographic Expeditions as outlined in this catalog as a sponsoring organization and has licensed qualified professional tour operators to organize and administer National Geographic Expeditions. The designated tour operator(s), in turn, acts only as an agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with these tours ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger; the carriers are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not aboard their conveyances.

The National Geographic Society and its designated tour operator and tour administrator shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, watercraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider; and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against the National Geographic Society and/or its designated tour operator and tour administrator for any such loss, damage, injury, or death.

By registering for a National Geographic Expedition, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. The National Geographic Society and its designated tour



Travelers pause for a photo on the coast of Patagonia.

operator reserve the right in their sole discretion to accept, decline to accept, or remove any participant on a National Geographic Expedition. The National Geographic Society and the tour operator reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their judgment, conditions warrant or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

Neither the National Geographic Society, its designated tour operator, nor its tour administrator shall be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the participant's National Geographic Expedition departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.

Terms and Conditions

Basis of Rates: All prices are based on two persons sharing a room or cabin. All prices and fares are quoted in U.S. dollars. The rates are based on current tariffs and are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, if it is necessary to levy a surcharge, we reserve the right to do so, and notification will be given at the time of final invoicing.

Eligibility: Participation in a National Geographic Expedition is a benefit of membership in the National Geographic Society. Membership dues for 2014 are \$39. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the entire journey.

Included in Expedition Cost: Accommodations and meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner); educational materials; pre-departure information; entrance fees, excursions, and sightseeing noted as included in the itinerary; all gratuities except those for train or ship's crew, unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; ground transportation during the expedition; transfers to and from group flights where applicable; services of National Geographic experts, lecturers, guides, expedition manager, and any other staff; and taxes, port charges, baggage handling, and service charges. Please note: the "B, L, D" notations apply to the period during the expedition only and do not include any meals on flights to/from the trip. Internal airfare is included on some international expeditions as indicated in the itinerary.

Not Included: Air transportation and related fees (except as indicated in the itinerary); activities noted as optional in the itinerary; gratuities for train or ship's crew, unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; passport and visa expenses; baggage/accident/cancellation insurance; personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone calls, and alcoholic beverages; and any other items not specifically noted as included.

Single/Shared Accommodations: A limited number of single rooms/cabins are available at an extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis. We will assist persons requesting a roommate. Participants will be notified if a suitable roommate is not available, in which case the single rate will be charged.

Payments, Cancellations, and Refunds: To reserve space on a National Geographic Expedition, a \$500 per-person deposit is required for trips that are nine days or less, and a \$750 per-person deposit is required for trips that are ten days or more except if noted on the itinerary page. Final payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Payments must be made by credit card. Your reservation may be canceled if full payment has not been received by 90 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 90 days of the departure date, full payment

is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If you cancel 120 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of 50% of your deposit will be made. Per-person charges for cancellations that occur less than 120 days prior to departure ("Cancellation Penalty Period") are as follows: 91-119 days prior to departure: 100% of your deposit amount; 45-90 days prior to departure: 50% of the expedition cost; 44 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the expedition cost. This policy also applies to pre- and post-trip extensions. Any revisions made within the Cancellation Penalty Period, such as a change in departure date or choice of trip, are subject to this cancellation policy. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund policy. Leaving an expedition in progress, for any reason whatsoever, will not result in a refund, and no refunds will be made for any unused portions of an expedition. We reserve the right to cancel any trip because of inadequate enrollment that makes the trip economically infeasible to operate or because of good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or welfare of the participants. If an expedition is canceled prior to departure, the tour operator will provide you with a full refund of monies paid to the tour operator; except in the event that the cancellation is due to a significant event that makes it infeasible to operate the expedition as planned, in which case the tour operator will provide you with a refund and/or credit toward a future National Geographic Expedition equivalent to monies paid to the tour operator. If we cancel the trip in progress, you will receive a prorated refund based on the number of days not completed on the expedition. We will not be responsible for any refund for nonrefundable airline tickets or for any airline tickets purchased by the passenger directly from an airline or travel agent.

Trip-cancellation insurance is available at an additional cost and is strongly recommended. For more information and to enroll, visit the "Travel Insurance" section of our website at www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

Itinerary Changes: The itineraries and staff presented in this catalog are subject to modification and change by the National Geographic Society or its designated tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but alterations may still occur after final itineraries are sent.

Health Requirements: You must be in good physical and mental health. Any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention must be reported in writing when the reservation is made.

Photography: We reserve the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any expedition or part thereof and to use the resulting photography, videos, or recordings for promotional or commercial use. By making a reservation on a National Geographic Expedition, the participant agrees to allow his/her likeness to be used by the National Geographic Society, National Geographic Society-authorized third parties, and the Tour Operator without compensation to the participant. If the participant prefers that his/her likeness not be used, he/she must notify us in writing prior to departure of the trip.

Copyright in all photographs, video, and related materials created by the participant ("Expedition Materials") shall belong to the participant upon creation. The participant grants to the National Geographic Society a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable license to use any Expedition Materials provided to the National Geographic Society and/or the Tour Operator in any media for the following limited purposes: editorial use, promotion of this editorial use, promotion of National Geographic's travel programs, or promotion of the mission of the National Geographic Society.

Other: Other Terms and Conditions may apply to some expeditions and will be provided with pre-trip mailings.

By registering for a National Geographic Expedition, the participant agrees to the Responsibility statement and the Terms and Conditions herein.

Mailing List: If you are receiving duplicate catalogs, have address updates, or would like to be removed from future National Geographic Expeditions mailings, please call toll-free 1-888-966-8687.

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS | CALENDAR

					DEPARTURE DATES																
					2014										2015						
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR				
NORTH AMERICA																					
Cuba: Discovering Its People and Culture					14			9	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 29			26	2, 9, 16, 22					
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Costa Rica and the Panama Canal					18	S		8							13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7*, 14*, 21, 28	7, 14*			
Alaska's Inside Passage					20	S		8			18, 25	1*, 8*, 15, 22, 29	6, 13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 24, 31*							
											17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30*							
Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound					22			7				14, 23	21	19, 28							
The Canadian Maritimes					23	S		8						11							
Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks					24			7				15		17, 31	7, 14						
Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion National Parks					25			7			25	15	6	17, 31	14						
Sailing the Caribbean					126	S		8									26	5, 12			
Alaska, British Columbia, and Haida Gwaii					127	S		15			3, 4			6*, 7*							
Columbia and Snake Rivers Journey					127	S		7						22, 23, 28, 29	4, 5, 10*, 16, 22						
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Discovering Colombia					32		★	11								5	7*	10	15	8	
Exploring Patagonia					34			13									9	28	11	8	8
Patagonia: Argentina and the Chilean Fjords					126	S		20								23					
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Southern Italy and the Amalfi Coast					38			10			6, 27				25	9					
Greece to the Dalmatian Coast**					41	S		12				9			6						
Turkey and Greece: A Sailing Odyssey					41	S		10			8, 16, 22										
Turkey: Istanbul to the Turquoise Coast					42			11		24*	8, 22			28	10, 25	9*					
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Inside Spain and Portugal					48			11			6	10			9	7					
Holland in Springtime					49	S		10		10	1										
Scotland's Highlands and Islands					50	S		9					28	4, 11, 18							
A Circumnavigation of Iceland					52	S		10					12, 20								
D-Day: The 70th Anniversary					126			8			2				27						
Exploring the Low Countries: Holland and Belgium					126	S	★	9			4										
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Trans-Siberian Rail Journey					54	T		17				13		8	15						
Along the Silk Road: A Journey by Classic Train					56	T	★	14							19	28*					
ASIA																					
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Inside China					62			14		10	10*, 22				13*, 18	23					
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India Wildlife Safari					66		★	15							30			12	23	9	
Rail Journey Through India					68	T		13	9							19, 26		21	25*	8	1
Vietnam and Cambodia: Along the Mekong River					70	S		14										6, 14, 20	25		3
Mongolia: Land of the Nomad					71			13				13*, 30	5, 25*								
Treasures of Myanmar					72		★	13								15	11*	2	28*	10, 23	
Wild Encounters from Borneo to Bali					74	S		13							16, 26						

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					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
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The Great Apes of Uganda and Rwanda	80			13						9, 22				27		26	
Ethiopia: The Omo Valley and Lalibela**	82		★	14							15*			29	9*		
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South Africa and the <i>Rovos Rail</i>	126			11							25						

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Australia's Wild Northwest	88		★	14			10, 20, 30	9, 19, 29	9, 19, 29								
Bali to Australia's Great Barrier Reef	90	S	★	20								18					
Papua New Guinea to Fiji	90	S	★	16									3				
Fiji to Tahiti	91	S	★	20									16				
Tahiti to Easter Island	91	S	★	20										3			

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Journey to Antarctica	96	S		14								28	8, 18, 28	7, 17, 27	6		
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Wyoming's Cowboy Country	109			7				22, 29									

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Costa Rica Family Adventure	117		★	7				13	5, 25				20	20, 26			
China Family Adventure	118		★	10				20	4, 25								
Turkey Family Adventure	119		★	9				28	12, 26								
Iceland Family Adventure	120		★	9				29	6, 20	3							
Swiss Alpine Family Adventure	121			8					12								
Alaska Family Voyage	122	S		8				28	19	2							
Galápagos Family Odyssey	123	S		10				27	4, 5, 19	1							
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S = Ship T = Train J = Jet

* These dates are special photography expeditions.

** Departure dates beyond March 2015 are listed on the itinerary pages for these trips.

Back cover: Rooflines echo the hillcrest in La Candelaria historic district of Bogotá, Colombia.

					DEPARTURE DATES												
					2014										2015		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
AFRICA																	
On Safari: Tanzania's Great Migration	76			11					12, 26	2	6	4		27	24	14	7
Southern Africa Safari by Private Air	78			12			10		26	23	20			27			
The Great Apes of Uganda and Rwanda	80			13						9, 22				27		26	
Ethiopia: The Omo Valley and Lalibela**	82		★	14							15*			29	9*		
Moroccan Odyssey	84			11	21	18	9*					3*, 15*, 17, 31					
South Africa and the <i>Rovos Rail</i>	126			11							25						
MIDDLE EAST																	
The Holy Land: Past, Present, and Future	86			12	28		9				12	24	7	26			
OCEANIA																	
Australia's Wild Northwest	88		★	14			10, 20, 30	9, 19, 29	9, 19, 29								
Bali to Australia's Great Barrier Reef	90	S	★	20								18					
Papua New Guinea to Fiji	90	S	★	16									3				
Fiji to Tahiti	91	S	★	20									16				
Tahiti to Easter Island	91	S	★	20										3			
POLAR REGIONS																	
Land of the Polar Bears	92	S		11				6, 13, 20									
The Northwest Passage, Iceland, and Greenland	94	S		25					28								
Journey to Antarctica	96	S		14									28	8, 18, 28	7, 17, 27	6	
Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands	98	S		24									8	26	25	14, 16	
PRIVATE JET																	
Around the World by Private Jet**	100	J		24										28	22		
Wildlife of the World by Private Jet	102	J		23								25					
Celebrating Exploration with National Geographic	104	J		24												15	
PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS																	
New York City	106			4		24	15	12			18	2, 16, 23					
San Francisco	106			4	6			19		21		23					
Seattle	106			4					10	14	25						
New Orleans	107			4	6, 27							9	13				
Tucson	107			4	27	24					4	23		4			
Washington, D.C.	107			4	20		8				18	23					
London	108			7			7					22					
Rome	108			7	12								12				
Paris	108			7		9						1					
Santa Fe	109			5			13		15			14					
Wyoming's Cowboy Country	109			7				22, 29									
FAMILY ADVENTURES																	
Tanzania Family Adventure	115		★	11				21	21					26			
Peru Family Advenutre	116		★	8				21, 29	12	2				21, 28			
Costa Rica Family Adventure	117		★	7				13	5, 25				20	20, 26			
China Family Adventure	118		★	10				20	4, 25								
Turkey Family Adventure	119		★	9				28	12, 26								
Iceland Family Adventure	120		★	9				29	6, 20	3							
Swiss Alpine Family Adventure	121			8					12								
Alaska Family Voyage	122	S		8				28	19	2							
Galápagos Family Odyssey	123	S		10				27	4, 5, 19	1							
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone	124			6										24, 30			
Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion Family Adventure	124			7				22	20	3							
Yellowstone and Grand Teton Family Adventure	125			7				22, 29	27	3, 10							
Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound	125			7					3, 12, 31	10							

S = Ship T = Train J = Jet

* These dates are special photography expeditions.

** Departure dates beyond March 2015 are listed on the itinerary pages for these trips.

Back cover: Baby and mother orangutans exchange a kiss in the jungles of Borneo.

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Tucson	107			4	27	24					4	23		4			
Washington, D.C.	107			4	20		8				18	23					
London	108			7			7					22					
Rome	108			7	12								12				
Paris	108			7		9						1					
Santa Fe	109			5			13		15			14					
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Back cover: Adélie penguins in Antarctica crowd a glistening shelf of ice.

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